

To: Smith, Bonnie[smith.bonnie@epa.gov]; Grundahl, Nancy[Grundahl.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Seneca, Roy
Sent: Mon 1/27/2014 1:44:14 PM
Subject: Fw: Philadelphia Region 3 Daily Forward

From: Vocus PR <pradmin@vocus.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:04:07 AM
To: Seneca, Roy
Subject: Philadelphia Region 3 Daily Forward

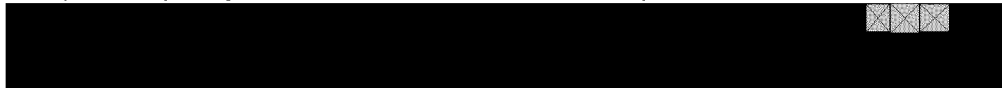
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 **Print/Online News (53)**

Outlet Name: Baltimore 01/25/2014 (1 day, 19 hours ago)
Sun - Online
[2014 Polar Bear Plunge canceled](#)

Special Olympics **Maryland** canceled Saturday's Polar Bear Plunge event for the first time in its 18-year history, citing unsafe weather conditions, and officials say...



Outlet Name: Evening 01/26/2014 (1 day, 2 hours ago)
Sun - Online, The
[A possible solution to China's smog: Giant vacuum cleaners](#)

This is how bad the smog has gotten in China. Officials are looking at washing away air **pollution** with artificial rain or sucking it up with giant vacuum cleaners. Shanghai has given its cops mini-filters to put in their noses. Beyond...



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Daily Record - Online
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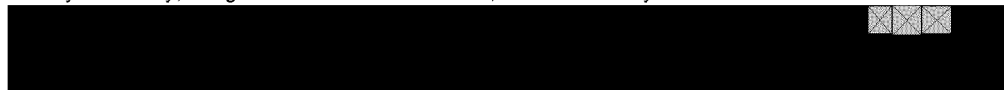
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Outlet Name: York 01/26/2014 (21 hours, 34 minutes ago)
Sunday News - Online
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Outlet Name: Lebanon 01/26/2014 (21 hours, 29 minutes ago)
Daily News - Online,
The
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Outlet Name: Times 01/26/2014 (13 hours, 41 minutes ago)
Leader - Online
[Act 13 ruling could change drilling case law](#)

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Outlet Name: 01/27/2014 (5 hours, 20 minutes ago)
Charleston Gazette -
Online, The
[Budget cuts slow chemical leak probe](#)

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Outlet Name: 01/27/2014 (6 hours, 9 minutes ago)
Intelligencer - Online,
The
[By THE INTELLIGENCER . The Intelligencer / Wheeling News-Register](#)

...spills such as that earlier this month in Kanawha County, W.Va. As we noted in a story published on Sunday, had similar regulations been in place in West **Virginia**, the spill here might not have occurred. Mountain State officials are preparing rules to require safety measures at chemical storage facilities,...

Outlet Name: 01/26/2014 (18 hours, 27 minutes ago)
Pilot - Online
[Conservation, not fracking](#)

...What's Twitter? The issue Future conservation easements, which are supposed to preserve land, could allow hydraulic fracturing. Where we stand **Fracking** desecrates the **environment** and is inconsistent with the mission of the **Virginia** Outdoors Foundation. The Virginian-Pilot...

Outlet Name: 01/26/2014 (10 hours, 1 minute ago)
Pittsburgh Business
Times - Online
[Consol reports record 4Q gas production](#)

...The company also drilled 10 wells in central Pennsylvania, including five wells in Westmoreland County. Looking ahead, Consol anticipates increasing **Marcellus shale** gas production by 87 percent in 2014 when compared to last year, while first quarter coal production was forecast between 7.2 million...

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Intelligencer - Online,
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[Consol Using \\$1.5B For Gas Drilling Operations](#)

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Outlet Name: Pittsburgh Business Times - Online 01/26/2014 (18 hours, 49 minutes ago)
[Corbett unveils state energy proposal](#)

...jobs growth. "Energy = Jobs" was released Tuesday during an appearance at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, a booming center of **Marcellus Shale** drilling in the eastern part of the commonwealth. The report lays out a broad overview for coal, solar, biomass, wind, nuclear...

Outlet Name: Washington Post - Online 01/26/2014 (11 hours, 46 minutes ago)
[Did 'piracy' help create the 19th century textile industry?](#)

...purposes that would be required were we to power cars with it. Most is produced from Natural gas. Using dirty energy to make clean energy doesn't help our **pollution** problem. Finally, a recent guest post by James Bessen looked at what early textile technology could teach us about innovation and the...

Outlet Name: News Leader - Online, The Egypt's 'Terrace Society' Flourishes on Cairo Rooftops 01/26/2014 (13 hours, 49 minutes ago)

...once-grand apartment block overlooking Cairo's Tahrir Square, Shukri Mahmud's father built a humble shack, the din, congestion and worst of the notorious **pollution** in Africa's biggest metropolis eight floors below.
<http://www.newsleader.com/VideoNetwork/3109978672001/Egypt-s-Terrace-Society-Flourishes-on-Cairo-Rooftops...>

Outlet Name: Carroll County Times - Online 01/26/2014 (12 hours, 48 minutes ago)
[Farmers concerned about EPA rule that would impact ethanol use](#)

Corn producers in **Maryland** are urging farmers to speak out against the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency's** proposed plan to reduce the amount of corn ethanol...

Outlet Name: Erie Times-News - Online 01/26/2014 (1 day, 3 hours ago)
[FINDING THEIR WAY HOME](#)

...Martins to find their way home to our area. Mother Nature is a wonderful provider to all of Gods creatures. I just hope we don't screw it up with invasives, **pollution** and overbuilding. See you on th Park!! Tags: Categorised in: Questions / Answers This post was written by admin

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County Times - Online
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Paul J. Gough Digital Producer- Pittsburgh Business Times | | LinkedIn | Google+ Former
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Countian - Online
[Frankford man charged with hunting violations](#)

...J. Winkler faces several charges, including illegal migratory bird hunting hours, possession
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Outlet Name: Sussex 01/26/2014 (19 hours, 11 minutes ago)
Countian - Online
[Frankford man charged with hunting violations Updated at 5:11 PM](#)

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Sun - Online
[Howard watershed 'academy' seeks recruits to carry message of bay protection](#)

...inspire their neighbors to take action, a nonprofit organization hopes to reduce the flow of
polluted stormwater runoff that eventually empties into the **Chesapeake Bay**. The Howard
County Watershed Stewards Academy which just graduated its first class two months ago is
recruiting for a second class...

Outlet Name: Pocono 01/26/2014 (12 hours, 28 minutes ago)
Record - Online
[Human Resources Center in Effort helps find best job for hard-to-place workers](#)

...pulmonary disease, or COPD, keeps her from having jobs where she's constantly around
food or people. A result of smoking tobacco, breathing in air **pollution** or genetics, COPD
reduces a person's ability to breathe and causes coughing and increased sputum production.
Some people have to permanently...

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Washington Post -
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[Hydrogen cars met with mix of excitement and skepticism in Washington](#)

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TV - Online

[Judge backs \\$1.4B plan to cut NE Ohio pollution](#)

Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:05 AM EST Updated: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:05 AM EST
AKRON, Ohio (AP) - A long court fight over sewage **pollution** in northeast Ohio may be winding down. A federal judge has approved a \$1.4 billion plan to alleviate Akron's problem with overflowing...

Outlet Name: Marietta

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Times - Online

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01/26/2014 (17 hours, 56 minutes ago)

Intelligencer - Online,

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Outlet Name:

01/27/2014 (2 hours, 28 minutes ago)

HuntingtonNews.net

[Legislature told Huntington has over 400 Water Risks in Critical Zone](#)

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Outlet Name:

01/26/2014 (1 day, 6 hours ago)

Northeast Pennsylvania

Weekender - Online

[Local briefs for Jan. 26](#)

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Intelligencer - Online,
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[Local Farmer Advances To 'Sweet 16' of Competition](#)

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Times - Online, The
[Lunar mission brought attention to Va. Shore](#)

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Outlet Name: WTRF- 01/26/2014 (1 day, 3 hours ago)
TV - Online
[National Awareness Month for the Silent Killer that Could be Giving You Cancer](#)

...there. It's odorless, tasteless and colorless and it slowly sticks to your lungs over the years giving you lung cancer. Radon can be just as deadly as **asbestos** or lead and it leads to 20,000 deaths across the nation per year. But there is a solution. If you're worried about your home, you can...

Outlet Name: Reading 01/27/2014 (1 hour, 30 minutes ago)
Eagle - Online
[New use for sewage: producing heat and electricity](#)

...PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The orange flare along I-95 near Castor Avenue isn't lit anymore. It used to burn off excess methane produced at this Philadelphia **sewage treatment plant**. But with the completion of a \$47.5 million project, the gas now is transformed into heat and electricity, putting the plant...

Outlet Name: Centre 01/26/2014 (7 hours, 28 minutes ago)
Daily Times - Online
[News from around Wisconsin at 5:58 p.m. CST](#)

The Associated Press. January 26, 2014 Updated 4 hours ago Wis. lawmaker offers **pollution**-reduction option GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — State Sen. Rob Cowles has introduced a bill designed to encourage industrial polluters to fund...

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Times - Online, The

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[Lunar mission brought attention to Va. Shore](#)

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...in parentheses) are: Pike, 150 (108); Wayne, 127 (73); Sullivan, 105 (60); Luzerne, 98 (100); Bradford, 96 (86); Monroe, 79 (102); Wyoming, 66 (57); **Carbon**, 57 (67); Susquehanna, 55 (41); Lackawanna, 48 (37); Columbia, 24 (36); Northumberland, 14 (26); and Montour, 0 (3). Other recent bear harvests...

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2014 Polar Bear Plunge canceled |  
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Special Olympics **Maryland** canceled Saturday's Polar Bear Plunge event for the first time in its 18-year history, citing unsafe weather conditions, and officials say it will not be rescheduled.

The event, held in partnership with the **Maryland** State Police, is designed to raise money for athletics for those with special needs. Special Olympics **Maryland** said 7,000 plungers had registered to dip into the icy waters of the **Chesapeake Bay** at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis on Saturday, and 10,000 spectators were expected.

Both the plunge and the day's festival activities were canceled. Officials said they are looking into the possibility of holding a smaller "plunge only" event in the near future.

Jim Schmutz, the president of Special Olympics **Maryland**, said winds were gusting up to 25 miles per hour, creating 3-foot waves on the bay. Snow and ice built up on the shore, with another inch of snow expected later in the day.

"It's a disappointment that we can't satisfy their commitment to us," he said of those who had agreed to participate.

Schmutz said a foot-long ice shelf had formed on the edge of the bay. High winds threatened to collapse the tents set up for bands and other entertainment, he said.

"As the tide has receded, there are effectively frozen boulders of sand on the beachfront," he said. "The **Maryland** Park Service came out and effectively shut the beach down for safety reasons."

In 2010, officials canceled one of the day's plunge events after 8 inches of snow fell, but this is the first time since the event began in 1997 that the entire day's activities have been canceled, Schmutz said.

"This is almost a perfect storm of unprecedented conditions," he said.

Officials said they "considered all possible scenarios" for Saturday's event and "determined that there was no safe way" to hold it. Three plunges had been scheduled for the day, with the primary one to be held at 1 p.m.

Schmutz said organizers were evaluating whether they could reschedule just the plunge event for March 8, when Special Olympics **Maryland** had booked the park area for an event just for schoolchildren.



Plungers raise money prior to the event and those donations will not be affected by its cancellation. Organizers said the event was "on track" to raise about \$1.8 million, short of a \$2.5 million goal. Additional donations can be taken to any state police barracks or to the Special Olympics **Maryland** office. Last year, the plunge weekend saw about 10,000 participants and raised \$2.2 million.

Schmutz said plungers who raised the required minimum of \$75 will still get their commemorative sweatshirts via mail.

Another plunge was held Friday, when the air temperature was 14 degrees and the **water** was 30 degrees, but Saturday's event was expected to draw far more plungers.

"We understand people's disappointment and we share that disappointment," Schmutz said. "It was really important from our perspective ... that we provide the safest **environment** and not put anyone at risk, and we didn't feel that we could do that with the conditions here today."

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01/26/2014
Evening Sun - Online, The

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The urgent search for ways to alleviate **pollution** has been spurred by the problem's growing visibility as well as the public's increased access in recent years to hourly measurements of the filth they're breathing.

Chinese cities have some of the world's most polluted air. The haze is often so thick it blots out the sun. On especially bad days in cities such as Harbin, in northeast China, residents can't even see across the street. Airports struggle regularly to land planes in thick fog. A study published in the British medical journal the Lancet attributed 1.2 million premature deaths in 2010 to bad air.

Other countries have cut air **pollution** by limiting emissions from factories and cars. China's leaders have been reluctant to sacrifice economic growth, and state-run industries have used their economic clout to resist stricter rules.

So people have looked to more novel ideas.

In the western city of Lanzhou deemed by the World Health Organization as having the worst air in China officials have proposed digging gullies into surrounding mountains. Others have talked in recent years of leveling mountains altogether. But the ideas, requiring mountain-sized funding, have stalled.

On the sci-fi end of the spectrum, a Dutch artist is designing a giant electrostatic vacuum cleaner. The device which resembles a giant hula hoop uses an electrified wire to attract smog particles. The artist's firm says it has successfully tested prototypes. I, the machine miraculously cuts a small circle in the city's haze to reveal blue skies and a shining sun. It's not going to cure smog on a large scale, but at least we can remind people what clean air looks like, said artist Daan Roosegaarde. He said Beijing's mayor has shown interest. Beijing officials declined to comment, but the Dutch Embassy, which has been assisting Roosegaarde, confirmed that he has meetings scheduled with Beijing officials next month.

But what's garnered the most attention in recent weeks is confirmation that the Chinese government is researching the use of artificial rain to rinse out bad air.

A document released by China's Meteorological Administration in November said that all local weather officials would be able by 2015 to use artificial rain to clear away smog.

Bloggers reacted with equal parts surprise, jokes and skepticism. Officials in the city and Meteorological Administration have refused to elaborate further.

In many ways, the idea is unsurprising. Because of China's chronic **water** shortages, it has invested heavily in artificial rain since the late 1950s. The country boasts the world's largest rainmaking force, which was deployed in Beijing to ensure clear skies for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics.

But applying rainmaking to smog is a relatively new idea. Several scientists at government think tanks and universities declined a journalist's requests this month to discuss it. Such information remains, like many things in China, under the tight control of the government.

According to the few scientists who were willing to talk, the science involves using rockets, cannons or planes to sow clouds with catalysts such as dry ice, silver iodide and salt powder. The substances augment the clouds' natural rainmaking processes.

The resulting rainfall in theory scavenges polluting particles from the air through a process called wet deposition. But the plan has serious flaws, many experts say.

The right moisture conditions are needed for cloud-seeding to work. The location of a city's largest concentration of **pollution** must be determined. And the rainfall can be fickle and difficult to aim.

Then there's the matter of unintended side effects.

Whatever chemicals go up to seed the clouds eventually come down, said Zhao Lijian, a **pollution** expert at the Energy Foundation, a nonprofit group that promotes clean energy. You're also sending all those heavy pollutants in the air into the **water** system. The only real solution to China's **pollution** problems, Zhao and other scientists stress, is to cut emissions from its **power plants**, factories and cars.

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York Daily Record - Online

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But applying rainmaking to smog is a relatively new idea. Several scientists at government think tanks and universities declined a journalist's requests this month to discuss it. Such information remains, like many things in China, under the tight control of the government.

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The resulting rainfall in theory scavenges polluting particles from the air through a process called "wet deposition."

But the plan has serious flaws, many experts say.

The right moisture conditions are needed for cloud-seeding to work. The location of a city's largest concentration of **pollution** must be determined. And the rainfall can be fickle and difficult to aim.

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Whatever chemicals go up to seed the clouds eventually come down, said Zhao Lijian, a **pollution** expert at the Energy Foundation, a nonprofit group that promotes clean energy. "You're also sending all those heavy pollutants in the air into the **water** system."

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Revs' new pitching coach knows what many of his players are experiencing

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A possible solution to China's smog: Giant vacuum cleaners |

01/26/2014

Evening Sun - Online, The

A woman wearing a face mask walks in Beijing. (Wang Zhao/AFP/Getty Images)

This is how bad the smog has gotten in China.

Officials are looking at washing away air **pollution** with artificial rain or sucking it up with giant vacuum cleaners. Shanghai has given its cops mini-filters to put in their noses.

Beyond the government, a cottage industry has popped up, tinkerers who are producing anti-**pollution** devices — some practical, others wacky artistic statements.

There is a bicycle that purifies air as you pedal. And a growing spectrum of do-it-yourself air-filtering machines, from simple duct-tape concoctions to elaborately engineered models.

The urgent search for ways to alleviate **pollution** has been spurred by the problem's growing visibility as well as the public's increased access in recent years to hourly measurements of the filth they're breathing.

Chinese cities have some of the world's most polluted air. The haze is often so thick it blots out the sun. On especially bad days in cities such as Harbin, in northeast China, residents can't even see across the street. Airports struggle regularly to land planes in thick fog. A study published in the British medical journal the Lancet attributed 1.2 million premature deaths in 2010 to bad air.

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Act 13 ruling could change drilling case law |  

01/26/2014

Times Leader - Online

With the state Supreme Court's decision last month to strike down Act 13 provisions that set statewide zoning rules for natural gas development, experts are questioning whether the ruling will affect future litigation.

The justices found that Act 13 zoning provisions that allow natural gas drillers to produce in residential and agricultural areas collided with the state constitution's Environmental Rights Amendment, which, until now, the high court has never used to make decisions.

The amendment maintains Pennsylvanians have the right to clean air, pure **water** and the preservation of the **environment's** historic and aesthetic values. In a 2010 review of the document, Widener University's Environmental Law Department noted it is

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Three justices, Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille along with Debra McCloskey Todd and Seamus P. McCaffery, voted in favor of striking down the provisions, citing the amendment.

Justice Max Baer voted in favor of striking down the provisions, though he did not base his decision on the amendment. Rather, in his opinion Baer said that as an extension of the general assembly, municipal governments should set their own zoning regulations as they can best determine the needs of their communities.

Justices Thomas G. Saylor and J. Michael Eakin opposed the majority in two congruent opinions that passing the zoning regulations was within the general assembly's purview.

Opinion's strength questioned

During a telephone conference, Penn State University law professor Ross Pifer last week said the decision would have more clout if more justices were in accord.

"The language that was used (in Castille's published opinion) was very, very strong language," Pifer said. "If that language had been signed off on by four justices, if it had a majority opinion, I think it would have had a huge impact moving forward."

The ruling restores municipal zoning standards relating to natural-gas drilling in place before Act 13 was passed in 2012.

Experts say there has been no significant fallout after the Dec. 19 decision, although Adam Garber, field director for Philadelphia-based environmental advocacy group PennEnvironment, said he imagines municipal leaders are dusting off their old zoning ordinances.

"There's the immediate thing: I think townships and citizens are going to revisit the local ordinances to best protect their community," he said.

Further, fearing their efforts could now be struck down by the amendment, legislators are likely to consider it when drafting new laws, Garber said.

"In the long term, I think it has the potential to shift environmental policy in the state," Garber said.

Other provisions out

Act 13 also gave the state Department of Environmental Protection power to grant waivers for drillers to breach established setback zones. These zones contained waterways and buildings.

The justices knocked down those provisions saying the act offered no standards for DEP to administer the waivers.

The provision was inextricably linked to other provisions that defined how far well pads must be from buildings and waterways. In short, those setback zones have been dissolved.

Gov. Tom Corbett has asked drillers to honor the old setback rules and member drillers of the **Marcellus Shale** Coalition have agreed to abide by his request, said coalition spokesman Steve Forde.

The suit has a third aspect in which Dr. Mehernosh Khan, a Pittsburgh physician, sued to repeal Act 13's medical disclosure provisions that allowed companies to keep chemicals used in **fracking** production fluids secret as a matter of corporate propriety.

The state Commonwealth Court shot down his argument saying the doctor had no grounds for his suit; however, the state Supreme Court decided Act 13 possibly could force him to break the law and revived his case.

Special-law problem

The case has been remanded to the state Commonwealth Court on several issues, two of which threaten to dismantle the act in its entirety, Pifer said.

- The general assembly must treat all similar industries equally. If the courts decide all of Act 13 panders to the natural-gas industry, it could decertify the entire document.
- The courts also could decide the zoning and setback provisions in question are essential to the rest of the law, and therefore the whole law cannot stand without them.

When the case was first before the Commonwealth Court, judges sided with municipalities on the zoning issues but determined Act 13 was not a special law. The Supreme Court ruled their decision was founded on incomplete information, Pifer said.

It remains to be seen how the lower court will rule. Pifer said the matter will likely reappear before the state Supreme Court after an appeal from whoever loses before the Commonwealth Court.

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Analysis: Politics, legacy loom over Obama decision on Keystone XL pipeline |

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Virginia Gazette - Online, The

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1:18 a.m. EST, January 27, 2014 WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama will lay out an agenda on jobs, the economy and the **environment** during his speech on Tuesday. But he is unlikely to mention the Keystone XL oil pipeline, a politically charged project that could shape his legacy in each area.

Some five years after Keystone XL was proposed, Canadian officials, Republicans and some Democrats in conservative U.S. states are expressing frustration over the lack of a decision by the White House on the initiative.

The TransCanada Corp project involves construction of a 1,179-mile (1,900-km) pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect with a previously approved line. That would create a system that could move more than 800,000 barrels of crude from Alberta's oil sands to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast each day.

Supporters say Keystone XL would create thousands of jobs and cut U.S. fuel costs by reducing the nation's reliance on oil imports from nations that are less friendly than Canada. They also point to U.S. government reports about the dangers of moving crude oil by rail as an alternative to the pipeline.

Critics of the pipeline plan say it would harm the **environment** and hasten **climate change** by promoting oil-harvesting methods in Alberta that produce high levels of **carbon** dioxide emissions.

The project is in limbo while the finalizes an environmental review, a long-delayed process that has irked allies in Ottawa and advocates on both sides of the issue in the United States.

Behind the scenes, a complex political calculus is at play on everything from the timing of the decision to the outcome.

For Obama, a decision in favor of the pipeline could undermine the Democratic president's environmental credentials and anger activists who have supported him just as his administration is writing new rules to reduce heat-trapping **carbon** dioxide emissions from **power plants**.

A decision against the pipeline could undercut Obama's pledge to boost employment and U.S. energy security while alienating an important international ally and oil supplier.

No matter what Obama decides, an announcement before the midterm congressional elections in November - which many observers expect - could make Keystone a big issue in the races that will determine control of the U.S. Congress.

The Keystone project is a particularly sensitive subject for several Democratic senators from politically divided states who support the pipeline, are under pressure from Republican critics who back the project, and are frustrated with what they see as the administration's reluctance to decide the matter.

Democratic Senators Mark Begich of Alaska, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Kay Hagan of North Carolina are prominent Keystone backers and have supported past Republican-led efforts to circumvent Obama on the decision.

A 'PROGRESSIVE' LEGACY?

For Obama, the political calculus on Keystone extends well beyond the issue of the pipeline itself.

As he enters his sixth year in office, Obama has become increasingly focused on building his legacy as a "progressive" president.

The cornerstone of that legacy is Obama's healthcare overhaul, which continues to face attacks from Republicans. But Obama also wants to have an enduring impact on the nation's efforts to counter **climate change**.

"The president doesn't have to run for election ever again, increasingly he's going to be thinking about his legacy," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, an environmental group.

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No matter what Obama decides, an announcement before the midterm congressional elections in November - which many observers expect - could make Keystone a big issue in the races that will determine control of the U.S. Congress.

The Keystone project is a particularly sensitive subject for several Democratic senators from politically divided states who support the pipeline, are under pressure from Republican critics who back the project, and are frustrated with what they see as the administration's reluctance to decide the matter.

Democratic Senators Mark Begich of Alaska, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Kay Hagan of North Carolina are prominent Keystone backers and have supported past Republican-led efforts to circumvent Obama on the decision.

A 'PROGRESSIVE' LEGACY?

For Obama, the political calculus on Keystone extends well beyond the issue of the pipeline itself.

As he enters his sixth year in office, Obama has become increasingly focused on building his legacy as a "progressive" president.

The cornerstone of that legacy is Obama's healthcare overhaul, which continues to face attacks from Republicans. But Obama also wants to have an enduring impact on the nation's efforts to counter **climate change**.

"The president doesn't have to run for election ever again, increasingly he's going to be thinking about his legacy," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, an environmental group.

"It's clear that one of the most important ways that he will be judged is what actions has he taken on **climate change**."

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Budget cuts slow chemical leak probe |

01/27/2014

Charleston Gazette - Online, The

Emergency prevention and response harmed, agency insiders say

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The state and federal agencies that have been responding to the Elk River chemical leak all have one thing in common: They have had their budgets cut in the last few years.

And people connected with those agencies say, perhaps not surprisingly, that the cuts have hurt their ability to prevent and respond to situations like the **water** crisis in West **Virginia**.

"It's clear that one of the most important ways that he will be judged is what actions has he taken on **climate change**." WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama will lay out an agenda on jobs, the economy and the **environment** during his speech on Tuesday. But he is unlikely to mention the Keystone XL oil pipeline, a politically charged project that could shape his legacy in each area.

Some five years after Keystone XL was proposed, Canadian officials, Republicans and some Democrats in conservative U.S. states are expressing frustration over the lack of a decision by the White House on the initiative.

The TransCanada Corp project involves construction of a 1,179-mile (1,900-km) pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect with a previously approved line. That would create a system that could move more than 800,000 barrels of crude from Alberta's oil sands to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast each day.

Supporters say Keystone XL would create thousands of jobs and cut U.S. fuel costs by reducing the nation's reliance on oil imports from nations that are less friendly than Canada. They also point to U.S. government reports about the dangers of moving crude oil by rail as an alternative to the pipeline.

Critics of the pipeline plan say it would harm the **environment** and hasten **climate change** by promoting oil-harvesting methods in Alberta that produce high levels of **carbon** dioxide emissions.

The project is in limbo while the finalizes an environmental review, a long-delayed process that has irked allies in Ottawa and advocates on both sides of the issue in the United States.

Behind the scenes, a complex political calculus is at play on everything from the timing of the decision to the outcome.

For Obama, a decision in favor of the pipeline could undermine the Democratic president's environmental credentials and anger activists who have supported him just as his administration is writing new rules to reduce heat-trapping **carbon** dioxide emissions from **power plants**.

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The federal Chemical Safety Board is conducting a long-term investigation into what went wrong at Freedom Industries' site on the Elk, and what can be done to prevent future incidents.

The CSB has 41 employees, about half of whom are investigators. Its investigation in Charleston is expected to take about a year. The agency's budget -- about \$10.5 million -- has been essentially flat for the last five years, although after the leak its 2014 funding was increased by \$500,000, following a request by Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives previously passed a broad spending bill that would have cut the CSB's funding by 25 percent, to about \$8 million per year.

Rafael Moure-Eraso, the CSB's chairman, said that his agency had also lost \$450,000 in 2013 due to the automatic federal budget cuts known as sequestration. He said that funding issues have slowed down and hampered his agency's investigations.

"Oh very much so. We have three active investigative teams, so in order for Mr. Banks to be here with his team, he has to stop the work on the particular investigation he was running," Moure-Eraso said.

Lead investigator Johnnie Banks had to leave his investigation of an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, to come to the Kanawha Valley.

"We have to go back to West, and come back to this, and share time like that," Moure-Eraso said. "We just have to come and start an investigation and do the best we can with the resources we have. And we would like to be more efficient in what we produce, but it's a problem."

Banks said Friday the agency is as busy as it has ever been in his 11 years there.

The West **Virginia** Department of Environmental Protection is facilitating the cleanup process at Freedom Industries. The DEP is also the agency that approved Freedom's **water pollution** permit and visited the site several times over the past two decades to investigate odor complaints.

Like many state agencies, the DEP would have its state funding cut by 7.5 percent for the second consecutive year under the budget Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin proposed Jan. 8, the day before the leak was detected.

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, which begins in July, the DEP will get less state money than it has in any year going back to 2008, according to projections from the West **Virginia** Center on Budget and Policy.

But that only tells a fraction of the story. The DEP generally gets between \$7 million and \$8 million per year from the state's general revenue fund, so the 7.5 percent cuts amount to about \$500,000. The vast majority of the agency's \$200 million to \$300 million annual budget comes from the federal government and special revenue, mostly in the form of fees for permits and licenses.

But those sources of funding are in decline as well. The DEP's budget for fiscal year 2014, which ends June 30, is smaller than every year since 2010, according to budget records. Adjusted for inflation, the DEP's 2014 budget is about \$43 million less than it was in 2010.



A Tomblin spokeswoman indicated that the governor had no plans to reconsider the 7.5 percent cut for fiscal 2015 and said the agency could make up the cuts using special revenue money.

"DEP is funded almost entirely through special revenue and special revenue agencies did not receive a 7.5 percent cut," Amy Shuler Goodwin, Tomblin's communication director, wrote in an email. "Any reductions in the governor's recommended budget will have no impact on the agency's ability to carry out its mission."

The West **Virginia** Senate is considering a bill that would require the DEP to annually inspect all above-ground storage tanks in the state.

The bill includes ways to fund those inspections, such as fees on tank owners, but Senate President Jeff Kessler said Friday that legislators should look at the cuts to the DEP.

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By THE INTELLIGENCER , The Intelligencer / Wheeling News-Register |  
01/27/2014
Intelligencer - Online, The

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Mountain State officials are preparing rules to require safety measures at chemical storage facilities, enforced by regular

inspections. As matters stand, there is virtually no oversight of such sites.

Pennsylvania's rules were enacted as a result of a 1988 disaster that had much more widespread effects than the Kanawha County spill. There, about 300,000 people were affected. **Water** supplies for about a million people were tainted when, in 1988, about 700,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked into the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh, with the tainted **water** flowing from there down the Ohio River.

Rules in the Keystone State seem tight enough to provide adequate protection. Ohio's regulatory mechanism is not as strict, however.

Buckeye State chemical storage tanks are required to meet certain standards and are inspected annually. But as a state **Environmental Protection Agency** spokeswoman told our reporter, emphasis seems to be on air **pollution**. Tanks are inspected to determine if gases are escaping, and **EPA** workers "check for obvious problems with liquid leaks," she said.

There are rules that large tanks near waterways have "berms" to contain any liquid escaping from them - but the tank from which chemicals spilled in Kanawha County had a similar containment wall. It had a hole in it.

West Virginians are looking at the problem as a result of a disaster. So did Pennsylvanians. This might be a good time for Ohio to get ahead of the game, so to speak, and conduct a thorough review of chemical storage rules. Doing so could avert a catastrophe such as that from which many West Virginians are still recovering.

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Conservation, not fracking |

01/26/2014

Virginian-Pilot - Online

Posted to: Editorials Opinion

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The issue Future conservation easements, which are supposed to preserve land, could allow hydraulic fracturing.

Where we stand **Fracking** desecrates the **environment** and is inconsistent with the mission of the **Virginia** Outdoors Foundation.

The Virginian-Pilot

Second of two parts

The **Virginia** Outdoors Foundation is supposed to protect private property through conservation easements, in which a landowner trades development rights for tax credits and other financial benefits.

The state-chartered organization says its 3,700 easements cover more than 725,000 acres, including 550,000 acres in the **Chesapeake Bay** watershed. The foundation has granted easements for nearly 50 years.

Two years ago, according to reporting by The Pilot's Tim Eberly, the VOF changed its easement language specifically to allow hydraulic fracturing - **fracking** - for oil and gas on lands protected by VOF agreements.

A review of email obtained under the Freedom of Information Act shows that the changes were made after entreaties by Texas-based Shore Exploration and Production Corp., which has leased more than 84,000 acres in Caroline, Essex, King and Queen, King George and Westmoreland counties.

The changes came after intercession by then-Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling's office and after meetings coordinated in part by the office of Doug Domenech, then secretary of natural resources.

Members of the foundation's board have already begun rethinking the idea of **fracking** on publicly protected lands. The board has agreed to stop issuing easements that permit **fracking** and to review its policies in June.

Some members say they intended in 2012 to bar **fracking** on VOF-protected land. Instead, they made specific changes to make it easier. The source of the confusion remains a mystery.

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When Shore Exploration, an oil and gas company, began leasing property in a formation called the Taylorsville Basin, it ran into a problem: Some of the land was tied up in VOF easements designed to protect it from development, safeguard **water** quality and preserve the rural character of the community.

Shore, in communications with state officials, said it wanted to ensure that future easements didn't foreclose oil and gas drilling in the Taylorsville Basin.

Hydraulic fracturing involves drilling holes and injecting a mixture of **water**, sand and chemicals to force out oil and gas. The technology has led to an energy boom in states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas and North Dakota.

But it carries environmental risks: **fracking** fluid leaking into **groundwater**. Massive use of dwindling **water** supplies. Pools of **water** laden with chemicals the companies aren't required to disclose. Heavy industry introduced into rural communities.

The Taylorsville Basin lies underneath aquifers that provide drinking **water** for 900,000, and which flow inexorably, slowly, into the **Chesapeake Bay**.

Geologists say that **fracking** simply can't occur without presenting some risk to the **groundwater**. That's what makes the VOF's decision in 2012 so strange.

Conservation easements allow landowners to extract value from property without developing it. They get federal and state tax credits, which can be huge, in exchange for a promise not to put up houses or factories. Their federal estate tax and local property tax liabilities can be cut.

Taxpayers bear the cost of those easements in foregone tax revenues. They also benefit.

The VOF describes it this way: "Land conservation... is about more than just aesthetics; it is a strategy for protection and improvement of **water** quality; preservation of cultural and historic sites; protection of our plant and animal communities; sustaining working landscapes, natural areas, and parks; and enhancing our quality of life as Virginians."

Those public benefits are eroded when a property is converted to another use, whether for industrial, retail or residential purposes. Or when its oil and gas are mined.

As episodes in other areas of the country have made clear, **fracking** can damage **groundwater** and nearby waterways. It can divert **water** from farms and people. Petroleum booms can overrun communities.

The VOF's policy change apparently began with a note on Nov. 23, 2011, from Bolling's chief of staff to Shore's chairman of the board:

"Following up on our meeting and phone conversation, I met with Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech to make him aware of your Royal Creek oil and gas development project and your concern about the **Virginia** Outdoors Foundation (VOF) precluding oil and gas exploration from their easement contracts," Randy Marcus wrote.

"Sec. Domenech is the point person in the McDonnell administration and a great advocate for expanding drilling for oil and gas in **Virginia**."

Domenech, in an interview, said he called VOF members and Shore executives for a discussion. While he's supportive of the oil and gas industry, he said that was the extent of his participation.

"I didn't communicate with the VOF board that you need to change your policy on **fracking**, or anything like that," Domenech said.

Nevertheless, emails and other documents show that the VOF's board clearly felt pressure from Richmond.

The VOF's governance structure ensures that it will be subject to political winds. Chartered by the General Assembly, the agency receives money from Richmond. Its board is appointed by the governor.

Politics clearly was at play in the boardroom and among administrators writing policy. In an email about ponds that could be used to store **fracking** fluids, former Executive Director Bob Lee described the push and pull: "I think at a staff level we agree that prohibition... is the best and safest posture, but I feel that our gubernatorial appointed Board feels that this strong posture might imperil discretionary VOF funding from the Administration."

Later that year, the VOF policy was changed.

The agency's new executive director, Brett Glymph, said this month that the 2012 change better protects property by ensuring that **fracking** is conducted in a responsible manner.

"I'm just not well versed in oil and gas enough to say that **hydrofracking** contaminates waterways," she said.

Stanley Sherrill, president of Shore Exploration, had a different take: "People who really understand this don't see oil and gas as incompatible with conservation of the land."

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When a government agency's lifeblood - its funding - is at risk, more than its operations are in jeopardy. Its principles are compromised.

VOF officials can begin to repair that damage by changing the policies again to make clear that **fracking** for oil and gas isn't compatible with safeguarding **Virginia's environment**.

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Consol reports record 4Q gas production |

01/26/2014

Pittsburgh Business Times - Online

Kris B. Mamula Reporter- Pittsburgh Business Times |

Consol Energy Inc. on Friday reported record natural gas production for the three months ending Dec. 31, with Marcellus volumes up 56 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

Consol's Gas Division produced 48.5 billions of cubic feet equivalent for the fourth quarter of 2013, or 16 percent more than the 41.8 Bcfe produced in the fourth quarter of 2012, the company reported. At the same time, Consol's coal division produced 7.1 million tons of coal for the fourth quarter, up about 8 percent from 6.6 million tons produced during the same period in 2012.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, Consol drilled 26 gas wells in southwest Pennsylvania, including six wells in Washington County. The company also drilled 10 wells in central Pennsylvania, including five wells in Westmoreland County.

Looking ahead, Consol anticipates increasing **Marcellus shale** gas production by 87 percent in 2014 when compared to last year, while first quarter coal production was forecast between 7.2 million and 7.6 million tons. Total annual coal production for 2014 was estimated to range between 30.1 million tons and 32.1 million tons.

Kris Mamula covers health care, insurance and employee benefits for the Pittsburgh Business Times. Contact him at kmamula@bizjournals.com or 412-208-3825.

Environment, Technology

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Consol Using \$1.5B For Gas Drilling Operations |

01/27/2014

Intelligencer - Online, The

With its former Shoemaker Mine rebranded as the Murray Energy Corp. Ohio County Coal Co.'s Ohio County Mine, Consol Energy plans to use \$1.5 billion to drill and frack Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas wells this year.

Consol recently completed its \$3.5 billion sale of five West **Virginia** coal mines - including the mines formerly known as Shoemaker and McElroy - to St. Clairsville-based Murray Energy. These mines, according to Consol Chairman and CEO J. Brett Harvey, were "low-growth, non-core coal assets."

"Our primary sale, which closed last month, yielded approximately \$1 billion in cash when taking into account after-tax proceeds and related administrative cost reductions. We will apply these funds toward our aggressive 2014 natural gas drilling program," Harvey said of the Murray deal.

In assuming control of the Shoemaker and McElroy mines, Murray Energy spokesman Gary Broadbent said the transition has been relatively smooth.

"We are rapidly getting through the myriad of issues and projects that we have needed to undertake. The new mines have been operating safely, but we must improve their productivity to compete in this very difficult coal marketplace," he said.

For its part, Consol now has a joint venture to drill wells in Ohio's Utica Shale with New York City-based Hess Corp.

That's hard to reconcile with the agency's longstanding mission of preservation - or with a recent policy change to accommodate a decades-old technology.

When a government agency's lifeblood - its funding - is at risk, more than its operations are in jeopardy. Its principles are compromised.

VOF officials can begin to repair that damage by changing the policies again to make clear that **fracking** for oil and gas isn't compatible with safeguarding **Virginia's environment**.

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- Comments are automatically checked for inappropriate language, but readers might find some comments offensive or inaccurate. If you believe a comment violates our rules, click the report violation link below it.

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Consol reports record 4Q gas production |

01/26/2014

Pittsburgh Business Times - Online

Kris B. Mamula Reporter- Pittsburgh Business Times |

Consol Energy Inc. on Friday reported record natural gas production for the three months ending Dec. 31, with Marcellus volumes up 56 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

Consol's Gas Division produced 48.5 billions of cubic feet equivalent for the fourth quarter of 2013, or 16 percent more than the 41.8 Bcfe produced in the fourth quarter of 2012, the company reported. At the same time, Consol's coal division produced 7.1 million tons of coal for the fourth quarter, up about 8 percent from 6.6 million tons produced during the same period in 2012.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, Consol drilled 26 gas wells in southwest Pennsylvania, including six wells in Washington County. The company also drilled 10 wells in central Pennsylvania, including five wells in Westmoreland County.

Looking ahead, Consol anticipates increasing **Marcellus shale** gas production by 87 percent in 2014 when compared to last year, while first quarter coal production was forecast between 7.2 million and 7.6 million tons. Total annual coal production for 2014 was estimated to range between 30.1 million tons and 32.1 million tons.

Kris Mamula covers health care, insurance and employee benefits for the Pittsburgh Business Times. Contact him at kmamula@bizjournals.com or 412-208-3825.

Environment, Technology

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Consol Using \$1.5B For Gas Drilling Operations |

01/27/2014

Intelligencer - Online, The

With its former Shoemaker Mine rebranded as the Murray Energy Corp. Ohio County Coal Co.'s Ohio County Mine, Consol Energy plans to use \$1.5 billion to drill and frack Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas wells this year.

Consol recently completed its \$3.5 billion sale of five West **Virginia** coal mines - including the mines formerly known as Shoemaker and McElroy - to St. Clairsville-based Murray Energy. These mines, according to Consol Chairman and CEO J. Brett Harvey, were "low-growth, non-core coal assets."

"Our primary sale, which closed last month, yielded approximately \$1 billion in cash when taking into account after-tax proceeds and related administrative cost reductions. We will apply these funds toward our aggressive 2014 natural gas drilling program," Harvey said of the Murray deal.

In assuming control of the Shoemaker and McElroy mines, Murray Energy spokesman Gary Broadbent said the transition has been relatively smooth.

"We are rapidly getting through the myriad of issues and projects that we have needed to undertake. The new mines have been operating safely, but we must improve their productivity to compete in this very difficult coal marketplace," he said.

For its part, Consol now has a joint venture to drill wells in Ohio's Utica Shale with New York City-based Hess Corp.

Together, the companies will drill 32 wells in the "liquids-rich" corridor of Belmont, Harrison, Guernsey and Noble counties.

In addition to dry methane, these wells contain valuable wet ethane, propane, butane, isobutane and pentane.

Separate from the joint venture activity, Consol officials plan to invest \$24 million in Monroe County. One well will target the liquids-rich Marcellus formation, while the other will be designed to penetrate the dry gas Utica zone. Both will be drilled from the same pad.

In the **Marcellus Shale** joint venture, Consol and partner Noble Energy plan to operate an average of 4-5 horizontal rigs each to drill at least 162 wells. They will drill at least 88 wells, including two beneath the Pittsburgh International Airport. Other locations for Marcellus drilling include Washington County, Pennsylvania and Doddridge County, West **Virginia**.

Despite selling five West **Virginia** mines to Murray Energy, Consol maintains ownership of several other coal production facilities, including the BMX Mine in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The company plans to invest \$200 million this year to get BMX fully up and running. On a full-year basis, Consol officials believe the new mine should produce approximately 5 million tons of Pittsburgh seam coal per year.

"And once the BMX longwall starts late in the first quarter, we expect our coal business to also generate meaningful cash to support the capital program for the exploration and production segment of our company," Harvey said.

Exploration and production (E & P) is an oil and natural gas industry term used to describe a company's drilling and **fracking** efforts. Consol also recently hired former Chesapeake Energy Vice President of Appalachia South Timothy Dugan as the new chief operating officer for its exploration and production division.

"Tim's intimate knowledge of all operational aspects, specifically in the Marcellus and Utica shales, his industry perspective, as well as his experience on the ground floor of a major airport drilling project, made him the logical choice to lead Consol Energy's E&P division, which is poised for dynamic growth in the coming years," said Consol President Nick Deluliis. "This hire represents a critical step in implementing the growth strategy we have embarked upon. Tim brings outstanding credentials and experience to Consol Energy, and we are excited to have him join our team."

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Corbett unveils state energy proposal |

01/26/2014

Pittsburgh Business Times - Online

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett.

Paul J. Gough Digital Producer- Pittsburgh Business Times | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

Gov. Tom Corbett's 73-page energy plan released Tuesday proclaims an "all of the above - and below" strategy that ties the industry to jobs growth.

"Energy = Jobs" was released Tuesday during an appearance at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, a booming center of **Marcellus Shale** drilling in the eastern part of the commonwealth.

The report lays out a broad overview for coal, solar, biomass, wind, nuclear and oil and natural gas. It said 240,000 residents work in the oil and gas industry with wages much higher than the state's average and with an expected \$14 billion pumped into the economy by 2020.

"Our 'all of the above' energy policy is reinforced by four core concepts to guide our support of energy source development: free markets; independence and security; abundant, affordable and domestic; and environmental enhancement," the report said.

More about the strategy is found on Corbett's website.

The Pennsylvania Coal Alliance came out in support of the proposal.

"An 'all-of-the-above' approach to energy makes enormous sense in building an energy portfolio," said Pennsylvania Coal Alliance CEO John Pippy in a prepared statement released Tuesday. "The governor's plan recognizes the critical role coal plays, and will continue to play, in the generation of electricity."

Paul J. Gough is digital producer at the Pittsburgh Business Times. Contact him at pgough@bizjournals.com or 412-208-3827. You can also follow him on .

Energy Inc., Solar energy, Wind energy, Alternative fuels, **Mining** and Drilling, Oil & gas

Environment, Energy

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Did 'piracy' help create the 19th century textile industry? |

01/26/2014

Washington Post - Online

Here at The Switch, we like to get your feedback -- particularly if it's thoughtful and constructive. So every week, we compile some of the best comments on our stories from the past seven days.

When Andrea Peterson wrote on Monday that another Yale student had come up with a brilliant course-ranking alternative to the university's own system, reader mwashtington2 said the student should be applauded:

Sweet! This is a stellar example of the direction that web-related development is going. If anything, Haufler should get some kind of academic recognition from the school's Computer Sciences dept. or whatever it may be called. In the private sector, this kind of innovative development would earn a promotion and raise at the least.

Meanwhile, my post on hydrogen fuel cell cars kicked off a long and fruitful discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of hydrogen gas. The whole thing is worth a read, but here's reader Yoshi taking on the high cost of producing hydrogen:

Why no mention of how much energy it took to obtain that hydrogen? While fuel cells have been around since 1839, the main drawback is the "upside-down" equation of separating and concentrating the hydrogen. It takes a lot more energy to get the hydrogen than it produces (upside down). We make about one-tenth the amount for industrial purposes that would be required were we to power cars with it. Most is produced from Natural gas. Using dirty energy to make clean energy doesn't help our **pollution** problem.

Finally, a recent guest post by James Bessen looked at what early textile technology could teach us about innovation and the future of American jobs. In response, reader DV Henkel-Wallace pointed out that Francis Lowell's tactic to bringing the loom to the New World would look very familiar to some today:

Don't forget: the construction of the power loom was a state secret in Britain. Lowell didn't just happen to see the mills in Britain, he went deliberately for that purpose, and memorized the design because taking notes was forbidden.

Without "piracy" the mill would not have come here (nor would the words of Dickens which weren't protected by copyright in the US either)

Brian Fung covers technology for The Washington Post, focusing on electronic privacy, national security, digital politics and the Internet that binds it all together. He was previously the technology correspondent for National Journal and an associate editor at the Atlantic. His writing has also appeared in Foreign Policy, Talking Points Memo, the American Prospect and Nonprofit Quarterly.

Also on The Switch

Will robots steal our jobs? The humble loom suggests not.

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Egypt's 'Terrace Society' Flourishes on Cairo Rooftops |

01/26/2014

News Leader - Online, The

On the roof of a once-grand apartment block overlooking Cairo's Tahrir Square, Shukri Mahmud's father built a humble shack, the din, congestion and worst of the notorious **pollution** in Africa's biggest metropolis eight floors below.

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Egypt's 'Terrace Society' Flourishes... 2m20s

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Farmers concerned about EPA rule that would impact ethanol use |

01/26/2014

Carroll County Times - Online

Corn producers in **Maryland** are urging farmers to speak out against the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency's** proposed plan to reduce the amount of corn ethanol required to be mixed with gasoline.

Under its Renewable Fuel Standard, the **EPA** is proposing a reduction in the total amount of renewable fuels required to be mixed with gasoline; this would include reducing the amount of corn ethanol required to 13 billion gallons from 14.4 billion gallons that was expected this year. This would be less than the 13.8 billion gallons of corn ethanol that was required in 2013.

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FINDING THEIR WAY HOME |

01/26/2014

Erie Times-News - Online

The Egret always their way home – Brian Berchtold

Have you ever wondered how Lake Erie's Steelhead Trout find their home stream they were released in many years ago when they return to spawn? It is one of the wonders of the natural world. You also have the Monarch Butterfly migration, and how about the tiny honey bee who can fly miles away, yet always find its way back to the hive.

Scientists and in particular biologists have been looking for answers for years. Back many years ago, a group of them concluded that on the very simplest level, some animals have adapted to finding their way home by using visual landmarks, just like some of us humans. About 10 years ago, they found that Gray Whales simply follow the California coast. Scientists noticed they would bob up and down from time to time to see where they were. Using observations over several years, they determined that they were looking for specific familiar features along the shore to help guide them.

Over the years, biologists have come to the conclusion that birds use the sun, moon and a few of the brightest stars to navigate until they begin to see familiar landmarks on their journeys north and south. As long as the sky remains fairly clear, the birds sense that they can depend upon this form of finding their way home.

Certain insects, though mostly nearsighted, rely almost entirely on using visual landmarks to get home. Take the honey bee for example. It has been known to fly off in the opposite direction from home in order to pass close to a tree, bush or other landmark it is familiar with. They and many other insects also use a slightly less reliable method that some sailors have used in the past, called dead reckoning. This simply has the animal or insect assess how far and in what direction it has just been moving, and reversing it until a landmark appears. Many insects and animals have found this works for only short trips away from home.

Many creatures such as bats, rats, butterflies and moths, plus even some bacteria carry magnetite within their bodies. This is a natural crystalline iron oxide. Using the earth's many magnetic fields and how the iron oxide is attracted to them helps the creature orient themselves in line with these magnetic force lines. In a recent study of Sockeye Salmon, scientists have determined that the fish not only determines what direction to go, but where they are and where they need to go using these magnetic fields. Scientists are quick to tell you they know this to be true, yet do not know how this is possible.

You can see some of these methods demonstrated on Presque Isle by just keeping track of the comings and goings of the bird, waterfowl and bat populations. Just go out to Presque Isle when the Purple Martins are all gathering in the shelter of the western end of Presque Isle Bay. They gather and migrate together so that they, as a group, can find their way home. You might also consider how many species of the bird world use Presque Isle as a landmark and resting place on their journeys north and south.

Steelhead in Stream

Now, back to our opening question, "How does Erie's Steelhead Trout return to their home stream to spawn?" They use the magnetic fields of the earth. It has a strange name, "Geomagnetic Imprinting." In animal and fish behavior, the term "imprint" means a special type of ingrained learning. The process includes the following:

1. The learning occurs at the critical early period of the animal's life.
2. The effects last a long time.
3. The effects cannot be modified.

This process, called natal homing, imprints in the animal or fish a magnetic imprint they are able then to use to return home many years later. Scientists do believe that it is plausible that the Steelhead can recognize their home area using the distinctive magnetic fields that exist there.

I am not and never will be a scientist, yet I hope they are right because in March I really do want the Red-Wing Blackbirds to return to Presque Isle and the Purple Martins to find their way home to our area. Mother Nature is a wonderful provider to all of God's creatures. I just hope we don't screw it up with invasives, **pollution** and overbuilding.

See you on th Park!!

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FINDING THEIR WAY HOME |

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I am not and never will be a scientist, yet I hope they are right because in March I really do want the Red-Wing Blackbirds to return to Presque Isle and the Purple Martins to find their way home to our area. Mother Nature is a wonderful provider to all of God's creatures. I just hope we don't screw it up with invasives, **pollution** and overbuilding.

See you on th Park!!

Tags:

Categorised in: Questions / Answers

This post was written by admin

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Former Marcellus Shale Coalition chief starts firm |

01/26/2014

Pittsburgh Business Times - Online

Paul J. Gough Digital Producer- Pittsburgh Business Times | | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

Former **Marcellus Shale** Coalition President Kathryn Klaber has started an environmental consulting firm.

The Klaber Group, based in Sewickley, is focused on **water** planning, benchmarking and economic analyses that include the opportunities presented by the **Marcellus Shale** play. Klaber also has been named an adviser in the Energy and Natural Resources Group at Babst Calland.

"The highly complex operating climate for businesses all of sizes, cutting across a diverse set of industries both domestically and internationally, has never been more challenging to navigate," Klaber said in a prepared statement. "Expanding regulations and other government actions call for new approaches to managing company value and resources. Our firm is well-positioned to assist companies in overcoming these increasing challenges aimed at minimizing risks and maximizing opportunities in this dynamic period created by the transformation of our nation's energy portfolio."

Paul J. Gough is digital producer at the Pittsburgh Business Times. Contact him at pgough@bizjournals.com or 412-208-3827. You can also follow him on .

Energy Inc., Management, **Marcellus Shale**

Environment, Energy

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Frankford man charged with hunting violations |

01/26/2014

Sussex Countian - Online

A 37-year-old Frankford man was arrested Jan. 14 following an investigation into illegal hunting practices near Selbyville. According to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, William J. Winkler faces several charges, including illegal migratory bird hunting hours, possession of unlawful game and possession of untagged Canada geese. **DNREC** officials said Winkler was arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court 3 and released on \$1,500 unsecured bond pending a later trial date.

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Baltimore Sun - Online

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By training residents to be savvy environmental leaders who can inspire their neighbors to take action, a nonprofit organization hopes to reduce the flow of polluted stormwater runoff that eventually empties into the **Chesapeake Bay**.

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the bay's health.

"Slow the flow" is the popular mantra among those who are passionate about helping people understand the positive impact they can have on the bay, said Sylvia Huestis, a master watershed steward and member of the nonprofit's advisory committee.

And there is a lot of **water** flowing into the Chesapeake. Approximately 51 billion gallons empty into the bay each day from its freshwater tributaries, according to the group's website.

There are currently eight stewards in the county, and organizers are hoping to more than triple that number starting Feb. 7, when a 15-session intensive course begins. Applications, which can be completed online at howardwsa.org, are due Jan. 28.

The Howard County group joins other watershed stewards academies in the area one in Anne Arundel County, on which Howard's is modeled, and another that covers Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Washington.

Training enables certified stewards to teach other residents how to protect the county's watersheds, which are areas of land that drain into specific bodies of **water**.

Designing rain gardens to absorb and filter **groundwater** is one example of a homeowner project that can help keep runoff and the chemicals, nutrients and pollutants it contains out of local rivers and streams.

Such measures are not new to the county. The Columbia Association began applying best management practices to its 20 sub-watersheds after the Columbia Watershed Management Plan was completed in 2009.

What is new is the establishment of an organization dedicated solely to educating residents who can pass on what they learn to their communities, Huestis said.

"One of the things that has made watershed work difficult is that there is no volunteer group dedicated to our specific watersheds," said Huestis, who is 70 and a retired Howard County science teacher.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway volunteers are known in the area for holding frequent stream cleanups and designing other projects to preserve and protect the Patapsco Valley, she said. But the valley lies mostly in Baltimore County, so much of Howard isn't under the group's jurisdiction, she noted.

Howard's advisory committee members are especially excited about the benefits that disseminating knowledge will bring to protecting the watersheds of the Middle Patuxent, Little Patuxent and Patapsco rivers.

The Howard County academy works side by side with the Columbia Association's watershed manager, John McCoy, and consults with the county's Office of Environmental Sustainability. The county awarded the group a \$10,000 grant for fiscal year 2014 that will cover costs of in-the-ground projects required of watershed stewards to complete their certification.

The organization's advisory committee also includes the University of **Maryland** Extension in Howard County, the Center for Watershed Protection and the Howard County Legacy Leadership Institute for the **Environment**.

Another impetus for starting the academy is the fact that many people aren't aware of the direct connection between their properties' stormwater runoff and the bay, Huestis said.

Neighborhood storm drains, which control localized flooding from runoff, are often dumping sites for things like used motor oil, she said. And many people don't realize the **pesticides** and fertilizers they use can run off plants and lawns after a rainstorm and end up in those drains.

Rachel Beebe, stormwater aide in the county's environmental sustainability office, said the instruction really makes a deep impression on people.

"Once they get educated, they don't want to [apply fertilizers and **pesticides**] anymore," she said. "They learn they can tolerate a bug or two."

Beebe is also working with the county's "relatively new" residential watershed protection credit and reimbursement program for installing rain management techniques, she said. Eligible homeowners can apply for a one-time, lump-sum payment of up to 50 percent of their expenses, or for a 20 percent credit against the annual watershed protection fee.

The 64,000-square-mile **Chesapeake Bay** watershed into which local sub-watersheds eventually empty is the largest on the Atlantic seaboard and includes much of **Virginia** and **Maryland**, according to the group's website. It also includes parts of West **Virginia**, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York, as well as all of Washington.

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy follows a five-step program that starts with identification of **pollution** sources. Subsequent steps range from creating **pollution** reduction strategies to installing projects that curb the stormwater volume infiltrating streams.

Terry Matthews, who was hired in December as part-time coordinator for the academy, said he will focus on finding grant money to accomplish the group's goals, and on helping the advisory committee build capacity.

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Huestis agreed, saying, "The success of this effort depends on individual people taking responsibility." The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy will host an evening with Nicholas DiPasquale, director of the **Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay** Program, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock.

He will speak on what residents can do to clean their **water**, and there be opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns.

Admission is free, but attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants at howardwsa.org.

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Human Resources Center in Effort helps find best job for hard-to-place workers |

01/26/2014

Pocono Record - Online

Stroudsburg resident Bethanne Kralik's chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, keeps her from having jobs where she's constantly around food or people.

A result of smoking tobacco, breathing in air **pollution** or genetics, COPD reduces a person's ability to breathe and causes coughing and increased sputum production.

Some people have to permanently use wheelchairs or crutches. Others have IQs lower than 70, or bipolar disorder.

Despite such challenges, these people want and have as much right as anyone else to independent, productive lives.

That's what agencies like the Human Resources Center, now at 231 Service Road in Effort, work to help them achieve. Based in Honesdale, HRC covers Monroe and seven other counties and has had a Monroe County office since 1995.

The agency helps people with physical, mental and intellectual challenges become better able to function on their own. Some with intellectual challenges might need help learning basic life skills like cooking, operating home appliances, shopping or having a bank account.

Others with physical or intellectual challenges might need help finding employment where their limitations won't hamper their ability to do the job. For example, someone in a wheelchair can have a job that involves mainly using a computer, while someone with a lower IQ can wash dishes or unload vehicles.

HRC partners with other agencies, including the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation under the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and the **Carbon**-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services, which refer people.

HRC assesses each client to determine his or her individual needs and then assigns someone to help that person achieve goals to becoming fully independent, whether in their own home, in the workplace or both.

Dawn Daignault, HRC's Community Integrated Employment director

"It's the coughing that limits where and what I can be employed as," said Kralik, 50, who was unable to work for two years due to her COPD.

Monroe County CareerLink and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, which is under the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, referred Kralik to the Human Resources Center, which recently relocated from Saylorsburg to Effort.

HRC helps those with physical, mental and intellectual challenges become independent and more productive at home and in the workplace.

"In October 2009, we completed an intake meeting with Bethanne to assess her interests," said Dawn Daignault, HRC's Community Integrated Employment director. "She tried out jobs in stocking, activities aide assistant, food prep, janitorial and bakery assistant, mostly with HRC job coach Cassandra Strunk."

Kralik said, "With my coughing, being a home health aide was no good. Neither was chopping peppers at () or stocking the dairy case at Wal-Mart."

After assessing Kralik's suitability to each job she tried out, HRC compiled those assessment results in a report and then had a team meeting with Kralik, Daignault said. Kralik's vocational goal was found to be "utility," which includes janitorial, dishwashing and other positions.

Then, the Keystone Blind Association, which staffs rest areas for motorists traveling in Pennsylvania, informed HRC about an

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When KBA hired and assigned Kralik to the Welcome Center's cleaning staff, Strunk was her main job coach, working with Kralik until Kralik became comfortable enough to function on her own in the position.

Two years and three supervisors later, Kralik is now Keystone's only employee in a supervised position that is full time with benefits.

"I shovel snow as well as clean," Kralik said. "And, being a lifelong resident here, I've been told I have a MapQuest memory of the Poconos, which helps in giving directions to people coming here for the first time."

Her supervisor, Alice Dolengewicz, praises Kralik for her work ethic.

"It's an extreme pleasure, working with Bethanne," said Dolengewicz. "As my only full-time cleaning person, she's always on time and reliable, and she does a great job. She's one of the best I've ever supervised."

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In her off time, with her son now grown and off on his own, Kralik canoes on the Delaware River, helps with National Park Service cleanups and looks after her elderly father.

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"It was just a matter of finding the right fit for her," Daignult said.

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Hydrogen cars met with mix of excitement and skepticism in Washington |

01/26/2014

Washington Post - Online

It sounds like science fiction — a car that runs on hydrogen gas, spits nothing but **water** vapor out the tailpipe, and can take you from Washington to New York City on a single tank.

But after a long and bumpy road from futuristic concept car to real-world production vehicle, the first mass-produced hydrogen-powered cars will hit dealerships this spring in the United States, and they are on display this week at the Washington Auto Show.

How soon you'll see them on the roads in our region remains to be seen, as auto manufacturers, fueling companies and policymakers look for ways to tackle serious challenges that now stand in the way — not the least of which is where do you refuel with hydrogen.

"It's coming, this is the next wave, and from what some of the manufacturers are saying, it's an even better bet than some of the alternatives already on the market," said Kevin Reilly, owner of Alexandria Hyundai and chairman of the Washington Auto Show. "Now all we need is the infrastructure to make it a viable option for drivers."

What are the advantages?

Manufacturers such as Toyota, Honda and Hyundai — the latter of which will soon begin selling its first hydrogen-powered vehicle in parts of California where fueling stations already exist — say this new propulsion system tackles the age-old **pollution** problems of standard gasoline engines without many of the limitations that have held back the market for battery-powered and other alternative fuel vehicles.

On board the vehicles, hydrogen and oxygen are combined in a fuel cell, causing a chemical reaction that yields electricity to power the car. The only other byproduct is **water**, which comes out the tailpipe as steam — so, no greenhouse gases, just like the plug-in hybrids and electric cars already on the road today.

And while some processes used to extract hydrogen for fuel usage do emit greenhouse gases, research has shown that the overall "well-to-wheel" **carbon** footprint is lower for hydrogen-powered cars than for electric plug-ins and other alternative fuel vehicles.

Meanwhile, filling up at a hydrogen pump takes a few minutes, compared to several hours for even the fastest of electric charging stations. And fuel cells can be scaled to power trucks and sport utility vehicles, whereas experts say it is currently difficult to stack

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enough batteries to power cars much larger than a sedan.

Most importantly, though, hydrogen-powered cars can travel upwards of 300 miles on one tank, giving consumers the same range they have grown accustomed to with gas engines. Conversely, the market for plug-ins continues to be limited by the fact that all but the most expensive models can travel no more than 100 miles on a full charge.

Indeed, as the area's network of electric charging stations has become more dense, electric vehicle sales in the Washington region have ticked up from around 150 last year to more than 600 in the past 11 months, according to data from the Washington Area New Auto Dealers Association. Still, that represents less than half of 1 percent of all cars sold in the region during that period.

"Drivers want larger cars, especially here in the United States, and they want to be able to drive further without refueling," Mike O'Brien, Hyundai's vice president of corporate and product planning, said in an interview. "So while we think there will always be a place for battery-powered electrics in our fleet, they'll always be supplemental vehicles, not ones that can displace combustion engines."

How did we get here?

With so many advantages, why are we so much further down the road on an electric charging network than we are on hydrogen fueling stations? It comes down to federal funding and the current administration's evolving stance on hydrogen.

During his first few years in office, then- Energy Secretary David Chu openly questioned the viability of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, at one point stating that it would require several "miracles" to make that dream a reality, including better ways to produce and store hydrogen and more affordable fuel cells. Under his watch, the Energy Department cut by more than half its funding for fuel cell research, while at the same time pouring additional resources into cultivating an infrastructure of electric charging stations for plug-in vehicles.

Not long afterward, Shell closed the only commercial hydrogen station in the District, located on Bennington Road, along with another three pilots it had been built in New York. On the East Coast, it looked like the end of the road for hydrogen cars.

Only three years later, though, Chu acknowledged that he had changed his mind about hydrogen, pointing to new techniques developed to extract hydrogen from natural gas as well as improvements and cost reductions in automotive technology. Toyota executives, for instance, say they have reduced the cost of hydrogen vehicles by 95 percent in the past decade, mostly by bringing down the size of the fuel cells and by finding new, less expensive materials with which to build the tanks.

At that point, though, the United States had already fallen behind the likes of Japan, Germany, Sweden, South Korea and the United Kingdom, all of which have made considerable government investments in hydrogen infrastructure and already have dense refueling networks.

Now in catch-up mode, and now under the watch of Obama's second-term Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, the United States has started to invest more money back into hydrogen. In May, the agency launched H2USA, a public-private collaboration between fuel suppliers, automakers, government agencies and clean technology groups to coordinate research and map out a plan for a hydrogen infrastructure.

"It's not the kind of problem the federal government is going to solve on its own, or that state governments or the industry are going to solve on their own; it really needs a team effort," David Danielson, head of the department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, said at the auto show last week. He added that H2USA members will put forth several recommendations for the agency and other stakeholders in the next few months.

Moniz, who also spoke at the show, said the department is taking a close look at steps that have been taken at the state level in California, where, sparked by public investments under former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) and accelerated by legislation signed by Gov. Jerry Brown (D), a cluster of nine hydrogen stations have sprouted around Los Angeles.

Over the next decade, the state will invest an additional \$200 million to reach 100 stations by 2024. Money for the program comes from vehicle registration fees, meaning drivers are footing much of the bill for the infrastructure.

Some private stakeholders, such as Toyota, which is planning on bringing its first hydrogen-powered car to the United States starting next year, have taken steps to speed up the process. The company partnered with the University of California, Irvine to fund research to determine how far apart to build hydrogen stations to make refueling practical for the largest number of potential buyers.

If they want to sell the cars on the East Coast, some say carmakers will need to make those same investments here.

"The first companies to sell a hydrogen fuel cell car are going to have to do some work like Nissan did with the Leaf," said Joe Taylor, training director at Darcars Automotive Group, a privately owned collection of more than 20 local dealerships. "That was the first mass-produced all-electric car, and before they did it, they worked with other groups to help build the start of an infrastructure and put charging stations in some of their dealerships."

While automakers say they are willing to invest in research, they are unlikely to dive much further into the fuel production and gas station business, even if it means waiting longer for the infrastructure they need to start selling hydrogen cars in new markets.

enough batteries to power cars much larger than a sedan.

Most importantly, though, hydrogen-powered cars can travel upwards of 300 miles on one tank, giving consumers the same range they have grown accustomed to with gas engines. Conversely, the market for plug-ins continues to be limited by the fact that all but the most expensive models can travel no more than 100 miles on a full charge.

Indeed, as the area's network of electric charging stations has become more dense, electric vehicle sales in the Washington region have ticked up from around 150 last year to more than 600 in the past 11 months, according to data from the Washington Area New Auto Dealers Association. Still, that represents less than half of 1 percent of all cars sold in the region during that period.

"Drivers want larger cars, especially here in the United States, and they want to be able to drive further without refueling," Mike O'Brien, Hyundai's vice president of corporate and product planning, said in an interview. "So while we think there will always be a place for battery-powered electrics in our fleet, they'll always be supplemental vehicles, not ones that can displace combustion engines."

How did we get here?

With so many advantages, why are we so much further down the road on an electric charging network than we are on hydrogen fueling stations? It comes down to federal funding and the current administration's evolving stance on hydrogen.

During his first few years in office, then- Energy Secretary David Chu openly questioned the viability of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, at one point stating that it would require several "miracles" to make that dream a reality, including better ways to produce and store hydrogen and more affordable fuel cells. Under his watch, the Energy Department cut by more than half its funding for fuel cell research, while at the same time pouring additional resources into cultivating an infrastructure of electric charging stations for plug-in vehicles.

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Who would have to step up?

Instead, the onus will likely fall on existing hydrogen producers, technology firms and other investors. A small Connecticut-based company called SunHydro, for example, has started planting the first seeds in the Northeast, building its first hydrogen fueling station in central Connecticut in 2010 and recently starting construction on another just outside of Boston.

Hydrogen is generated on site at both stations using energy from solar panels on the roof to electrolyze **water**. Purchased a few years ago by Tom Sullivan, who made his fortune with Toano, Va.-based hardwood flooring company Lumber Liquidators, SunHydro initially planned to build a chain of stations that would allow hydrogen cars to travel from Maine to Miami.

However, Sullivan said he later realized that building a central hub of stations was a more practical path for hydrogen cars, and he hopes to start with a dense network around Boston. Once in place, if hydrogen cars start selling in the Northeast, the network would likely sprout satellite stations that he thinks would spread quickly to New York, and then down to Washington.

In order for hydrogen cars to be a real option in this area, though, Sullivan estimates we would need at least a dozen stations in the region. And without cars to fill up at his existing pumps up north, he says there is little incentive to move forward, as each station costs a couple million dollars to build and needs roughly 100 vehicles locally to make it economically viable.

"We need more cars to make it worthwhile, that's the bottom line," he said. Meanwhile, Hyundai, Toyota and Honda representatives all say they are eager to bring their cars to market on this side of the country — just as soon as they see hydrogen stations sprout on the East Coast.

It leaves both sides at a stalemate, waiting for the other to jump first. Some are hoping that's where the H2USA partnership will step in with funding or other incentives to get the early stages of a fueling network off the ground.

"In California, they provided a walking bridge across the river for investors during this period where there are not yet enough hydrogen cars on the road," O'Brien said. "It would be great to see that model expanded or duplicated at the state or federal level."

When will this all happen?

With a little more push from elected officials, carmakers and fuel producers say they could have hydrogen-powered vehicles rolling out of dealerships in this region in as little as three or four years.

"It's not going to happen overnight, but it will happen," Sullivan said. "I think, realistically, we are a few years away from seeing hydrogen-powered cars in this region."

Others think it will take significantly longer, some pointing out that it took about a decade to build an adequate recharging infrastructure here to support battery-powered electrics — a far less expensive undertaking than building hydrogen stations.

"It could happen, but it's going to take a long time and a large investment," Eric Wachsman, director of the Energy Research Center at the University of **Maryland**, said in an interview. He added that hydrogen vehicles may prove more practical down the road for public buses and shipping fleets, which always return to the same location.

However, "having hydrogen replace gas pumps at every corner station, that's a long way out," he added.

Some local dealers were equally skeptical. Alex Perdakis, general manager of Koons Ford Lincoln Mazda in Silver Spring, said, "We don't hear a lot of people asking or talking about hydrogen fuel."



Then again, that's precisely why they are on display at the show, Reilly said.

"In part, they're shown because [automakers] want consumers here to get excited about these cars," the auto show chairman said. "And second, they want lawmakers and agency officials walking around to see that this is no longer something automakers are thinking about doing, it's here and it's ready to roll out."

Ultimately, he said, the idea "is to get them to see what's happening in California and get them thinking: 'Alright, what do we need to do to get these vehicles on the road here and across the country?'"

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But the city still intends to press for a less-expensive solution, affecting 300,000 sewer customers in Akron and 13 suburbs. The city is raising sewer rates and wants approval for system improvements to reduce storm **water** getting into sewers and aggravating sewer overflows.

According to the Akron Beacon Journal (bit.ly/1mQNWMO), about one-third of Akron relies on combined sewers which handle both toilet waste and storm **water**.

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Legislature told Huntington has over 400 Water Risks in Critical Zone |

01/27/2014

HuntingtonNews.net

Monday, January 27, 2014 - 03:03 Updated 2 hours ago Edited by Tony Rutherford from Multiple Reports

A presentation to a committee of the WV legislature lists 424 "significant contaminants" within the city's critical zone of **water** intake. The presentation described 206 industrial sources and 218 identified as commercial , municipal , agriculture and residential. Representing WV Rivers Coalition, the Downstream Strategies document lists "Marcellus wells" in a presentation slide in Morgantown, W.Va.'s Zone of Critical Concern (near **water** intake). The slide comes from the Morgantown Utility Board.

This summary, "Freedom Industries Spill: Lessons Learned and Needed Reforms" was presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on State **Water** Resources on January 22, 2014.

Essentially, the organization demands stiffer regulations so that entities such as the Freedom complex would not slip under vague regulatory compliance. It criticizes state officials for mostly focusing on Freedom Industries, when numerous activities continue downstream of **water** intakes throughout the state.)

Calling the Freedom spill a failure of private (Freedom, WV American **Water**) and federal, state and local government, the presentation stated that Freedom holds a NPDES (National **Pollution** Discharge Elimination System) permit that is regulated under multi-sector general stormwater permjits by the WV Department of Environmental Protection. The WV Rivers Coalition recommends that under the **Clean Water** Act, DEP inspect all NPDES sites and immediately inspect those near intakes, prohibit a "general stormwater permit" to suffice for facilities in areas of critical concern, provide an additional special permit for industries such as the Freedom site, and increase funding for WV DEP;s NPDES enforcement program.

A grassroots website, ourwater.org, recently criticized politicians for a rush to dismantle Freedom while ignoring the problems root causes.

Instead of approving that Freedom is a "bad apple" in the manufacturing bunch. they write, "Governor Tomblin, Senator Manchin and the DEP appear to have come down harshly on Freedom Industries, but notice that the DEP's order to dismantle the site is a "consent order." The whole idea of a "consent order" represents the DEP's philosophy of regulating industry – only impose regulations that the industry consents to."

The article continued: "Why not look for other facilities upstream of drinking **water** intakes with inadequate secondary containment, rather than focusing on tearing down this one, which the DEP says doesn't have any harmful or hazardous substances anyway?"

Pertaining to Huntington, the ourwater.org posting analyzes:

"Have these [Huntington] sites been inspected recently? How many of these sites fall under the same lax regulatory regime that the Freedom site did – with no site-specific **water pollution** permit, no required **pollution** prevention plan on file with the DEP, and no knowledge on the part of emergency planners or the **water** company of the potential impacts of the hazardous chemicals they may be storing?"

For instance, Huntington Alloys (a.k.a. Special Metals) applied in 2013 for a WV NPDES **Water Pollution** Control Permit to operate and maintain a metals reclaim tailings earthen impoundment and temporary storage area for the treatment of industrial waste and drainage into the drainage basin of Pat's Branch , a tributary of the Guyandotte River which is a tributary of the Ohio River.

And Mayor Steve Williams previously has stressed that catastrophic implications surround the Waste **Water** Treatment Plant. <http://www.huntingtonnews.net/75770> . In addition, the Huntington Sanitary Board drafted a consent order in September regarding issues at Special Metals. <http://www.huntingtonnews.net/71511>

SEE ALSO: Hydrogen Fluoride sent to Waste Treatment Plant

SEE ALSO: **TCE** --- which was also sent to Huntington's plant --- has links to cancer:

TCE Exposure Linked To Increase Risk of Some Cancers

Trichloroethylene (**TCE**) exposure has possible links to increased liver cancer risk, and the relationship between **TCE** exposure

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TCE Exposure Linked To Increase Risk of Some Cancers

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and risks of cancers of low incidence and those with confounding by lifestyle and other factors need further study, according to a study published May 30 in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

TCE is a chlorinated dry-cleaning solvent and degreaser that has been widely used for approximately the last 100 years and has shown carcinogenicity in rodents. Previous epidemiologic studies have shown a reported increase in cancer risk in humans for the kidney, cervix, liver and biliary passages, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and esophageal adenocarcinoma.

<http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/105/12/1.full?sid=f6d8779e-b742-40e6-9c36-a22f22c77155>

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Local briefs for Jan. 26 | 

01/26/2014

Northeast Pennsylvania Weekender - Online

WILKES-BARRE

Women Voters

to hold breakfast

The Wilkes-Barre Area League of Women Voters is holding its annual legislative breakfast on Feb. 1 from 8:30 until 11 a.m. at King's College in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center.

All state legislators who represent Luzerne County have been invited. The cost is \$15 for League members and \$20 for the general public.

Reservations are required. Call 570-675-3429 for more information and reservations.

SUGARLOAF TWP.

Penn State laureate to talk on The Beatles

Penn State Laureate Kenneth Womack, a prolific writer on movies and music, will share his Beatles scholarship on Monday at Penn State Hazleton. "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!: The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles" will take place at 7 p.m. in 115 Evelyn Graham Academic Building. The event is free and open to the public.

In this interactive multimedia presentation, Womack traces the Beatles' songwriting practices, recording artistry and musicianship from its early, primitive recordings through the aesthetic heights of "Abbey Road" at the twilight of the band's career. He illustrates the group's artistic growth using a wide range of music and film clips.

Womack is a professor of English and integrative arts at Penn State Altoona and the 2013-14 Penn State Humanities Laureate. An honorary position established in 2008, the laureate is a full-time faculty member who spends half of one academic year traveling the state to promote the arts and humanities.

Visit www.hn.psu.edu or call 570-450-3180 for more information.

LUZERNE

Conservation District

presenting workshop

The Luzerne Conservation District is hosting a Conservation Workshop for municipal workers and officials, engineers and consultants, and earth moving contractors in Luzerne and surrounding counties on Feb. 28.

The workshop will be at the Knights of Columbus facility in Luzerne. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the latest information on soil and **water** issues and requirements.

Event details and information on how to register can be found at: <http://luzernecd.org/2014/01/24/mecc-workshop/>.

WASHINGTON

Marino nominates 15 to Service Academies

U.S. Rep. Tom Marino, R-Lycoming Township, officially announced the nomination of 15 young men and women of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District to the United States' Service Academies.


One, Lauren Larar, is from Kingston and attends Wyoming Seminary. She was nominated to United States Military Academy,

and risks of cancers of low incidence and those with confounding by lifestyle and other factors need further study, according to a study published May 30 in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

TCE is a chlorinated dry-cleaning solvent and degreaser that has been widely used for approximately the last 100 years and has shown carcinogenicity in rodents. Previous epidemiologic studies have shown a reported increase in cancer risk in humans for the kidney, cervix, liver and biliary passages, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and esophageal adenocarcinoma.

<http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/105/12/1.full?sid=f6d8779e-b742-40e6-9c36-a22f22c77155>

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Local briefs for Jan. 26 | 

01/26/2014

Northeast Pennsylvania Weekender - Online

WILKES-BARRE

Women Voters

to hold breakfast

The Wilkes-Barre Area League of Women Voters is holding its annual legislative breakfast on Feb. 1 from 8:30 until 11 a.m. at King's College in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center.

All state legislators who represent Luzerne County have been invited. The cost is \$15 for League members and \$20 for the general public.

Reservations are required. Call 570-675-3429 for more information and reservations.

SUGARLOAF TWP.

Penn State laureate to talk on The Beatles

Penn State Laureate Kenneth Womack, a prolific writer on movies and music, will share his Beatles scholarship on Monday at Penn State Hazleton. "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!: The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles" will take place at 7 p.m. in 115 Evelyn Graham Academic Building. The event is free and open to the public.

In this interactive multimedia presentation, Womack traces the Beatles' songwriting practices, recording artistry and musicianship from its early, primitive recordings through the aesthetic heights of "Abbey Road" at the twilight of the band's career. He illustrates the group's artistic growth using a wide range of music and film clips.

Womack is a professor of English and integrative arts at Penn State Altoona and the 2013-14 Penn State Humanities Laureate. An honorary position established in 2008, the laureate is a full-time faculty member who spends half of one academic year traveling the state to promote the arts and humanities.

Visit www.hn.psu.edu or call 570-450-3180 for more information.

LUZERNE

Conservation District

presenting workshop

The Luzerne Conservation District is hosting a Conservation Workshop for municipal workers and officials, engineers and consultants, and earth moving contractors in Luzerne and surrounding counties on Feb. 28.

The workshop will be at the Knights of Columbus facility in Luzerne. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the latest information on soil and **water** issues and requirements.

Event details and information on how to register can be found at: <http://luzernecd.org/2014/01/24/mecc-workshop/>.

WASHINGTON

Marino nominates 15 to Service Academies

U.S. Rep. Tom Marino, R-Lycoming Township, officially announced the nomination of 15 young men and women of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District to the United States' Service Academies.

One, Lauren Larar, is from Kingston and attends Wyoming Seminary. She was nominated to United States Military Academy,

United States Naval Academy, and United States Air Force Academy.

Another nominee is Giacomo DiNicola, a Kings College student; nominated to United States Air Force Academy and United States Naval Academy.

Earlier this month, Marino's 10th District Service Academy Nomination Board, composed of veterans, service academy alumni, community leaders and local business owners, met to interview perspective nominees before consulting Marino on his 2014 nominations.

A congressional nomination does not guarantee acceptance. Nominees are still required to seek admittance from their desired service academy – a decision made by each academy individually.

HARRISBURG

DEP awards \$150,000

to Harveys Lake project

The state Department of Environmental Protection awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Harveys Lake Stormwater System project to reduce pollutants entering the lake and improve the **water** quality.

State Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Township, and state Rep. Karen Boback, R-Harveys Lake, announced the award Thursday.

The grant was among the \$20 million awarded by DEP throughout the state. The Harveys Lake project is part of DEP's Growing Greener program that invests in projects to protect watersheds affected by **pollution** or to restore the **water** quality in an affected area.

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Local Farmer Advances To 'Sweet 16' of Competition | 

01/27/2014

Intelligencer - Online, The

Kacey Orr arrived in Texas armed with knowledge, facts and hard data about farming and related policies - but it turned out she didn't really need to know that much.

"It was like a pageant for farming, not pretty people," Orr said of her experience representing West **Virginia** during the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet held this month in San Antonio, Texas.

Orr, who grows 36 varieties of vegetables and fruits and raises chickens on her 30-acre Bullard Orr Farm in Triadelphia, made it to the competition's Sweet 16 while vying against 43 other farmers representing various states.

Photo provided

West **Virginia** chicken farmer Lois Alt, left, who has been fighting the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** in a court case related to **water** runoff at her farm, poses with Ohio County farmers Rebecca Jack, center, and Kacey Orr during the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet in San Antonio, Texas.

"I missed by one single person going to the finals," Orr said. "The guy that beat me had won 10 years in a row at the state level. In the third round I was feeling good. It was less about facts and data, which is what I like, and more of a speech contest than I expected it to be."

But Orr, 33, is no stranger to speech competitions. During high school she was a member of Wheeling Park's speech team, which has won 34 consecutive competitions.

It was during the team's 20th consecutive win that she served as a team captain. That competition, she noted, was more stressful than the event in Texas.

"I could have never done it without being on the speech team. Every job I've gotten and elected committee I've served on is because of the speech team," she said, adding she contacted her former speech coach, Fran Schoolcraft of St. Clairsville, to tell her the good news.

Schoolcraft, who retired in 2004 as the head of the speech and theater department at Wheeling Park, said Orr was always a hard worker who used constructive criticism to better her skills.

"Kacey was a great girl. She would take it in stride and was always wanting to learn more and improve herself," Schoolcraft said. "Kacey would work hard and get better. She was a good inspiration for the other students because she worked so hard."

Schoolcraft noted she was not surprised when Orr went into farming since she had been around it her entire life. Orr's farm was

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started by her late grandparents, Dorothy and Robert Orr.

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Schoolcraft was the speech team coach from its inception until it won its 25th consecutive competition. She said she always asked her students to do their best, as she did not want to put any undue pressure on them.

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Lunar mission brought attention to Va. Shore |

01/26/2014

Daily Times - Online, The

Written by Carol Vaughn Staff Writer

WALLOPS — The September launch of a lunar mission from NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport brought a new level of attention to the region, according to information compiled by tourism officials and NASA.

NASA estimates some 14,000 people viewed the Sept. 6, 2013 launch of a rocket carrying a robotic spacecraft called LADEE—standing for Lunar Atmosphere and Dust **Environment** Explorer—at **Virginia** and **Maryland** observation locations.

Untold numbers more watched the nighttime launch of the \$280 million mission from their backyards or other locations around the Delmarva peninsula and beyond.

Viewers traveling to **Virginia** for the launch included some 1,400 invited guests, 70 journalists and 50 social media users chosen from many more who applied for credentials.

The NASA Visitor Center at Wallops had 2,080 visitors on launch day—significantly more than on other days.

"In 2011, we hardly broke 2,000 the whole month," said education coordinator Jessica Beebe. The visitor center in 2012 had about 3,000 visitors in September.

The total for September 2013 was 7,707 visitors—more than twice the previous year.

September in addition to the lunar mission included a second high-profile rocket launch from Wallops, of an Antares rocket making its demonstration flight to the International Space Station.

Lodgings on nearby Chincoteague Island filled up ahead of the Friday night lunar launch, bringing a welcome boost to the resort town's economy after the end of the summer tourist season.

"We are as busy as busy can be," Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Suzanne Taylor said at the time.

Virginia motels as far south as Exmore, nearly 40 miles away from Wallops, also were near or at capacity, she said.

"There's a definite positive impact for the local economy because of the launches," said Sharon Davis, Tourism Relations Manager at the **Virginia** Welcome Center in New Church.

"There are visitors coming here specifically to view the launches," Davis said.

Whether it was because of the timing of the LADEE launch on a Friday night, extensive publicity surrounding the lunar mission or some other factor, the launch brought significantly more visitors to Chincoteague than other big rocket launches last year—although the precise number is not known.

"We did have more at the LADEE launch than at any other launch—that's a definite," said Chincoteague Town Manager Robert Ritter Jr. There were three designated viewing locations on the island, making it difficult to come up with an accurate crowd estimate, he said, putting the number as "not quite as many as Pony Penning."

An estimated 40,000 visitors each year attend the annual Pony Swim on Chincoteague.

The traffic count on Route 175, the road that leads from Route 13 past NASA Wallops Flight Facility to Chincoteague, was twice the number on launch day as on days prior to and after the launch, according to information compiled by the **Virginia** Tourism Commission.

Additionally, traffic on the **Chesapeake Bay** Bridge-Tunnel was up over 16 percent that day compared to the same day the year before, and was up 5 to 10 percent in the days just before and after the launch.

The LADEE launch also had a remarkable effect on NASA's social media numbers, according to NASA Wallops Flight Facility Web Operations Chief Rebecca Powell.

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The LADEE launch also had a remarkable effect on NASA's social media numbers, according to NASA Wallops Flight Facility Web Operations Chief Rebecca Powell.

"In terms of social media, the LADEE launch was one of the biggest points of growth for us," said Powell, noting in particular the popularity of a NASA photo of a frog being catapulted into the air as the rocket launched that went viral—the photograph later was named one of CNN's top images of 2013.

The launch also was broadcast live in Times Square in New York City and was the number one trending topic on Twitter.

Over 7 million people were directly following the official launch accounts on various platforms—Facebook, Twitter and Google+—and the main NASA Facebook page gained 4,419 new "likes" that day, well over its normal rate of about 1,700 daily new "likes."

Still, the lunar mission was not the biggest day of growth for the NASA Wallops Facebook page itself, Powell said.

That came with the Nov. 19 launch of a Department of Defense mission, ORS-3. The page gained over 12,000 new followers on that day alone, compared to the norm of between 400 and 500 new followers a week.

The NASA Wallops Facebook page started 2013 with around 18,000 followers and now has over 56,000 followers.

Previous

757-787-1200, ext. 115

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National Awareness Month for the Silent Killer that Could be Giving You Cancer |

01/26/2014

WTRF-TV - Online

It's called the silent killer and it's caused thousands of deaths across the nation every year. For national Radon Awareness month, 7 News is letting the public know what can be done to protect yourself.

Experts believe Radon is created from rocks decaying in the soil underneath your home and releasing a gas. The problem is, you don't know it's there. It's odorless, tasteless and colorless and it slowly sticks to your lungs over the years giving you lung cancer.

Radon can be just as deadly as **asbestos** or lead and it leads to 20,000 deaths across the nation per year. But there is a solution.

If you're worried about your home, you can buy a test kit at a local department store for an approximate reading, or call a radon mitigation specialist for a more exact test. The lower the number the better, although it's impossible to completely get rid of Radon since it's in the air we breathe outside.

If the Radon level is above 4, it's considered a health risk and mitigation procedures can be performed to suck the gas out of your home from under the basement floor.

"We connect piping and a fan that is either outdoors or in the attic and then the Radon is released above your roof so that it's then mixed with the natural air and the concentration is lowered so it's no longer a problem inside your home or outside," said Enviro Safe Radon Solutions Specialist Don Hoffman.

Hoffman also said Radon is very complex and there's still a lot of research going on to fully understand how it works and what can be done to avoid the risk of lung cancer. For more information on Radon you can go to the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** web site at www.epa.gov/radon.

To talk to a professional Radon Specialist or you want get your home tested/ mitigated you can call Enviro Safe Radon Solutions toll free at: 888-326-4433

Here's a list of other websites you can go to for information and even a site about people who have cancer now due to Radon.

Ohio Department of Health: Licensed Radon Professionals

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/rp/radlic/radlicg/radonlic1.aspx>

US **EPA**: Find your states radon information:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/whereyoulive.html>

University of Toledo :

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University of Toledo :

<http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/aprg/radon/>

US **EPA**:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/>

Kansas State University :

<http://sosradon.org/>

Cancer Survivors Against Radon :

<http://www.cansar.org/>

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New use for sewage: producing heat and electricity |

01/27/2014

Reading Eagle - Online

Saturday January 25, 2014 10:07 AM

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The orange flare along I-95 near Castor Avenue isn't lit anymore.

It used to burn off excess methane produced at this Philadelphia **sewage treatment plant**. But with the completion of a \$47.5 million project, the gas now is transformed into heat and electricity, putting the plant front and center in a sewage paradigm shift.

These days, the stinky sludge, the stuff of our toilets, has a new future. Experts see not an abomination, but a resource.

"We are just at the beginning of what we can do with sewage," said Allison Deines, director of special projects at the **Water Environment Research Foundation**, a **Virginia**-based nonprofit for wastewater and storm **water** issues.

She and colleague Lauren Fillmore, senior program director for energy, lauded Philadelphia as an early adopter.

"It takes a long time just to get a few supporters of innovative technology," Fillmore said. "I definitely want to credit Philadelphia with being a leader."

When municipalities started piping sewage away from residential areas, the receiving facilities were known as sewage treatment plants. They did little but settle out the solids.

In the 1980s, in the wake of national clean-**water** legislation, they became "**water pollution** control plants."

Today, "we're moving toward a new name," said Philadelphia **Water** Commissioner Howard Neukrug. "The industry is calling them '**water** resource recovery facilities.' "

At Philadelphia's Southeast plant, a system recently was installed to recover the heat in the sewage stream, which is about 60 degrees in winter, 75 degrees or more in summer.

The York County plant has a process that recovers phosphorus - a fertilizer in limited supply worldwide - for processing and reuse.

Some day, Neukrug and others say, it may be both technologically and economically feasible to mine sludge for other nutrients and heavy metals.

At the city's Northeast plant in Bridesburg, the resource is "biogas."

There, sewage solids are separated and sent to eight 2.1 million-gallon tanks, where bacteria digest the material and reduce its volume. In the process, they give off a flammable gas that is roughly 63 percent methane.

Christopher Crockett, **Water** Department deputy commissioner for planning and environmental services, likens the process to that in the human stomach, gas and all. Stuff arrives; microbes digest it.

"This is just a larger, industrial-size scale," he said.

The remaining solid matter used to go to a landfill. Now, it's sent to a plant near Philadelphia International Airport, to be converted into pellets to fertilize golf courses and farms, or fuel cement kilns.

But back to the gas.

It is piped to the new biogas "cogeneration" facility on the site of the Northeast plant.

In essence, cogeneration is the simultaneous production of electricity and heat from a single fuel source, according to the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency**, which endorsed the technology.

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/>

Kansas State University :

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After treatment to remove moisture, hydrogen sulfide, and "siloxanes" - residue from the decomposition of soap, shampoo, and other personal-care products - the gas is burned in four massive reciprocating engines.

The result is 43 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, enough to power more than 4,000 typical homes - or, more pertinent to the project, enough to meet 85 percent of the power needs of the **sewage treatment plant**.

The combustion also produces heat. Much of it is captured and returned to the digesters, where it helps keep the sludge mix at 95 degrees, the optimal temperature for microbes to do their job.

"Very simple," said Paul M. Kohl, **Water** Department energy program manager. What's not simple, he said, is getting there - the miles of piping, the heat exchangers, the monitors, computers and other instrumentation, all in communication.

All told, the process captures more than 80 percent of the available energy for heat and electricity, according to the **Water** Department. In contrast, a coal-fired electricity generating station is about 35 percent efficient.

The plant's **carbon** emissions have been reduced by about 22,000 tons a year - the equivalent of taking 4,833 cars off I-95, or planting 5,390 acres of pine forest, by **Water** Department calculations.

Department officials had mulled a biogas cogeneration plant for a while. But, ironically, electricity rates were low enough that the project would not be economically feasible.

Recently, however, rates increased to a point where it made financial sense.

The city partnered with Ameresco Inc., a Massachusetts-based company that specializes in energy efficiency and infrastructure upgrades for facilities across North America.

Financing came from Bank of America, which technically owns the facility; the city is leasing it for 16 years, with an early buyout option.

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The next goal: producing all the plant's electricity needs, to create a net-zero facility.

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Capturing waste methane and putting it to work, Kohl added, is "a bonus."

Online:

<http://bit.ly/1aJFjyJ>

Information from: The Philadelphia Inquirer, <http://www.inquirer.com>

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News from around Wisconsin at 5:58 p.m. CST |  

01/26/2014

Centre Daily Times - Online

The Associated Press January 26, 2014 Updated 4 hours ago

Wis. lawmaker offers **pollution**-reduction option

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — State Sen. Rob Cowles has introduced a bill designed to encourage industrial polluters to fund efforts to reduce farm **pollution**.

The measure would allow wastewater-treatment plants and other producers of phosphorus to delay their own reduction efforts if they helped pay for efforts to cut farm runoff, Press-Gazette Media reported (<http://gbpg.net/1e0MoOh><http://gbpg.net/1e0MoOh>).

Cowles, R-Allouez, said he's concerned about oxygen-deficient areas in the waters of Green Bay and elsewhere. He said the so-called dead zones point to a need to rein in phosphorus runoff from the largest contributors — agriculture and urban storm **water**.

"Green Bay's dead zone is similar to sections of Lake Erie and the Gulf of Mexico, where there's so little oxygen that fish and aquatic organisms struggle to survive," he said.

After treatment to remove moisture, hydrogen sulfide, and "siloxanes" - residue from the decomposition of soap, shampoo, and other personal-care products - the gas is burned in four massive reciprocating engines.

The result is 43 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, enough to power more than 4,000 typical homes - or, more pertinent to the project, enough to meet 85 percent of the power needs of the **sewage treatment plant**.

The combustion also produces heat. Much of it is captured and returned to the digesters, where it helps keep the sludge mix at 95 degrees, the optimal temperature for microbes to do their job.

"Very simple," said Paul M. Kohl, **Water** Department energy program manager. What's not simple, he said, is getting there - the miles of piping, the heat exchangers, the monitors, computers and other instrumentation, all in communication.

All told, the process captures more than 80 percent of the available energy for heat and electricity, according to the **Water** Department. In contrast, a coal-fired electricity generating station is about 35 percent efficient.

The plant's **carbon** emissions have been reduced by about 22,000 tons a year - the equivalent of taking 4,833 cars off I-95, or planting 5,390 acres of pine forest, by **Water** Department calculations.

Department officials had mulled a biogas cogeneration plant for a while. But, ironically, electricity rates were low enough that the project would not be economically feasible.

Recently, however, rates increased to a point where it made financial sense.

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"Green Bay's dead zone is similar to sections of Lake Erie and the Gulf of Mexico, where there's so little oxygen that fish and aquatic organisms struggle to survive," he said.

Industrial polluters are already cutting down on the amount of phosphorus they discharge into state waterways. Tougher government standards call for more cuts, but Cowles says those reductions will be expensive and only marginally helpful.

For example, to comply with the government regulations, **NEW Water**, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, would have to spend more than \$200 million to install filtration technology at its wastewater-treatment plants in De Pere and Green Bay.

But **NEW Water** contributes just 2 percent of all the phosphorus that ends up in Green Bay, executive director Tom Sigmund said. Running and maintaining the filtration system will cost another \$2 million per year, he said.

Brutal cold returns to Midwest for extended stay

CHICAGO (AP) — An unusual weather pattern driving bitterly cold air from the Arctic Circle south across a huge swath of the Midwest is expected to send temperatures plummeting Monday from Minneapolis to Louisville, Ky., the latest punch from a winter that is in some areas shaping up as one of the coldest on record.

Temperatures will remain in the grips of the deep freeze for 2½ days, said meteorologist Mike Hudson of the National Weather Service in Kansas City, Mo. It will be similar to what happened earlier this month when temperatures dropped quickly and stayed low for days when a piece of the polar vortex — winds that circulate around the North Pole — "broke off and moved south," Hudson said.

In cities where temperatures reached the 40s, 50s and even higher Sunday, people will wake up Monday to temperatures ranging from the teens to well below zero. And with the wind chill, cities throughout the Midwest will feel far colder than the minus 4 that Hudson said was expected in Barrow, Alaska, the nation's northernmost city.

The weather service said city after city will face wind chills well below zero Monday: minus 43 in Minneapolis, minus 23 in both Milwaukee and Chicago, minus 14 in Kansas City, minus 10 in St. Louis, and minus 3 in Louisville.

In the Chicago area, residents were bracing for a historic deep freeze. Monday's high was expected to be minus 4 degrees and drop as low as 17 below zero downtown, with wind chills as low as 40 below zero.

Temperatures could remain below zero Tuesday as well and remain below zero for a total of 60 hours — the longest stretch since temperatures stayed below zero for a record 98 hours in 1983 and the third longest stretch in 80 years. It also would easily eclipse the 36 straight hours temperatures stayed below zero earlier this month, when the frigid weather prompted the city's public schools to close for two days.

By noon Sunday, Chicago's school district, which has approximately 400,000 students attending more than 650 schools, said it would be closed Monday. Districts in the Chicago suburbs also announced they'd be closed Monday.

Walker focuses on hiring people with disabilities

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Nobody can fold a box quite like Patrick Young.

Gov. Scott Walker learned that first hand as Young, who has Down syndrome, led a 2012 tour of Tailored Label Products in Menomonee Falls. Young challenged Walker to put together specialized packaging used by the company — think of it as a complicated pizza box — as quickly as he could. As Walker fumbled at the flaps, Young adroitly snapped everything into place in seconds.

Walker said meeting Young helped inspire an initiative he unveiled in his State of the State speech last week. The effort, called "A Better Bottom Line," is aimed at getting more Wisconsin companies to hire people with disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and mental illness.

People with disabilities account for about 9 percent of the state's workforce, based on data provided by Disability Rights Wisconsin. But their employment rate is less than one-third that of workers without disabilities, and workers with disabilities on average earn 30 percent less.

Walker has proposed spending \$800,000 by mid-2015 to expand an on-the-job training program for workers with disabilities. He hopes to expand the program from seven to 27 companies over the next three years.

The governor plans to highlight employers and organizations that help people with disabilities find work, in part by talking about the issue during stump speeches around the state. He also is ordering state agencies to focus on building, recognizing and promoting public and private programs and organizations that improve employment opportunities for those workers.

One of the biggest barriers people with disabilities face in finding work is the attitude of employers and the community, said Beth Swedeen, executive director of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Pasch: Mentally ill need more treatment help

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But State Rep. Sandy Pasch, D-Shorewood, says more needs to be done. She cites the case of Jaren Kuester, a 31-year-old Waukesha man who pleaded insanity to killing three Wiota farmers last year.

In the days leading up to the slayings, his family tried to persuade Waukesha County officials to detain him. Kuester, who had a history of depression and psychosis, had been delusional following his dog's death, according to his father, Jim Kuester.

But a social worker sent the family away because the elder Kuester couldn't provide convincing evidence that his son was a danger to himself or others, said Peter Schuler, who was director of Waukesha County Health and Human Services at the time.

The standard of determining whether someone is dangerous enough to warrant commitment is fuzzy, Pasch said. There needs to be a clearer legal standard to ensure the mentally ill get help before others get hurt, she said.

"They need somebody to see them all the time in supportive housing, and they need to be helped through the process as they're evaluated and studied for changes," she said.

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Obama's climate change heat rises |

01/26/2014

Daily Times - Online, The

WASHINGTON ? President Barack Obama's **climate change** agenda will take a step forward this year with new rules for curbing **carbon pollution**.

The regulations will help fulfill Obama's promise in last year's State of the Union address to act on **climate change** if Congress doesn't.

As the president prepares to deliver this year's State of the Union speech on Tuesday — and as his critics accuse him of waging a war on coal — environmental advocates including Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., say he should use the speech to reaffirm his commitment to action on **climate change**.

Cardin, a member of the Senate **Environment** and Public Works Committee, said he hopes Obama will ask members of Congress to work with him on a sensible energy policy that will not only help the economy and national security but help the **environment** by dealing with **climate change**.

"He could clearly point to so many extreme weather conditions that have happened in this past year and that this is not just a coincidence, that we are affecting climate, and we need to do something about it," Cardin said.

Republicans and some Democrats trying to block **carbon**-emissions regulations say technology that captures the **carbon** and stores it underground is unproven and costly. While environmental advocates say a clean-energy economy would create new jobs, critics say regulating emissions will eliminate current jobs and hike electricity costs for consumers.

"With a record number of people out of the labor workforce and high unemployment, I hope in the State of the Union the president will focus on creating jobs," said Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., in a statement. "Increasing the cost of energy through overreaching **EPA** policies will destroy jobs and hurt our economic recovery.

Punishing American workers when China and India continue to pollute at unprecedented levels is the wrong policy."

The Obama administration says **climate change** increases the risk of severe weather, which it said caused more than \$110 billion in damage in 2012. By June 2013, Hurricane Sandy's effects in **Maryland** had required more than \$34 million in federal assistance in 23 counties and the city of Baltimore, according to the White House.

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Oil-gas fund transfers debated |

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Standard-Speaker - Online

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Following the start of the **Marcellus Shale** gas boom, the oil and gas fund saw a huge spike in rent and royalty payments from gas drillers leasing parcels on state forest land. The fund started the 2013-14 fiscal years with a balance of \$87 million.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources held three competitive auctions between 2008 and 2010 to lease forest land to Marcellus drillers.

Former Gov. Ed Rendell and lawmakers approved an initial transfer from the oil and gas fund to support DCNR operations in 2009, the year of the lengthy budget stalemate and a desperate search for new revenue to erase recession-triggered red ink.

Gov. Tom Corbett has continued these transfers with tight budgets becoming the norm during a slow economic recovery. This year revenue from the oil and gas fund contributes more to support DCNR's budget than the taxpayer-built General Fund, according to the House Democratic Appropriations Committee. Drilling revenue underwrites a large share of the salaries of DCNR park rangers, foresters, lifeguards, geologists and engineers.

Also this year \$20 million is being transferred from the oil and gas fund to the Marcellus Legacy Fund, a creation of the natural gas drillers impact fee law. This transfer is scheduled to increase to \$35 million in fiscal 2014-15, according to the appropriations panel.

These transfers will make the oil and gas fund a point of dispute in the upcoming budget debate.


During her recent Senate confirmation hearing, DCNR Secretary Ellen Ferretti was asked by Democratic senators if the transfer creates a conflict of interest for officials charged with regulating drilling on forest land.

Ferretti responded that lawmakers approve the transfer each year and DCNR is glad to have this money in tight fiscal times.

A bill to restrict oil and gas fund revenue to conservation, recreation, dam and flood-control projects is being introduced by Rep. Greg Vitali, D-166, Havertown, ranking Democrat on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

House Democratic lawmakers have suggested that oil and gas revenue should go to tackle an estimated \$1 billion worth of maintenance needed for roads, bridges, dams and **water** systems in state parks and forests.

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Olympics | 
01/26/2014
Baltimore Sun - Online

A collection of news and information related to Olympics published by this site and its partners.

Special Olympics **Maryland** canceled Saturday's Polar Bear Plunge event for the first time in its 18-year history, citing unsafe weather conditions, and officials say it will not be rescheduled.

By Joe Burris, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Jan 24, 2014 | 6:04 PM

The air temperature was 14 degrees and the **water** was 30 degrees, so if state Sen. Allan Kittleman of Howard County had opted to simply plant a toe or two in the **Chesapeake Bay** on Friday morning, who could have blamed him? Instead, he immersed himself...

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Story | Jan 24, 2014 | 3:12 PM

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Story | Jan 22, 2014 | 6:30 AM

Catonsville resident Ed Young, vice president of Ravens Roost No. 117, will brave the chilly **water** of the **Chesapeake Bay** for the 12th time on Saturday, Jan. 25, along with nearly 6,000 other daring individuals as part of the 18th annual Polar Bear Plunge...

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Story | Jan 22, 2014 | 11:15 AM

I believe the timing is right. Critical decisions should be made to keep our Olympic athletes and coaches at home. The **environment** is simply too volatile to send our athletes and coaches to Sochi. Russian President Vladimir Putin is bound and determined to pull off the Sochi Olympics, no matter what. But when factions boldly state they will target fans who come to Sochi, the situation becomes so much more complex and convoluted. I ask the U.S. Olympic Committee and Congress to keep our athletes...

By Karen Mawdsley, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Jan 18, 2014 | 11:15 AM

GAITHERSBURG — It started 7,000 miles away, in China — that was the first time Crystal Wang held a table tennis racket. "Her grandparents introduce her to this game," Crystal's father, Quandou Wang, said. Crystal was visiting them in the summer of 2007, and they took her to a local community center where table tennis abounded and an instructor suggested she give it a shot. Five years old at the time, Crystal could barely see over the table — the average 5-year-old stands 40 inches...

Story | Jan 13, 2014 | 1:12 PM

Maryland women's basketball star Alyssa Thomas has been named to the U.S. women's national team's 33-player pool for the 2014 world championships and 2016 Olympics. The two-time Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year attended a U.S. minicamp in Las Vegas in October and is one of just six current college players chosen for the 2014-16 pool. (The others are UConn's Stefanie Dolson, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis and Breanna Stewart, Notre Dame's Kayla McBride and Baylor's Odyssey Sims. "I think...

Olympics Photos see all

By Lorraine Mirabella, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Jan 4, 2014 | 6:59 AM

When the winter Olympics gets underway next month in Sochi, Russia, Under Armour's logo will be seen by millions of viewers around the globe as the Baltimore-based brand sponsors two U.S. teams and another from Canada. The Olympic sponsorships — the greatest exposure yet for Under Armour at any winter games — could pay off not only in brand awareness, but in stronger sales and profits, company officials say. They hope wins by sponsored athletes or even just the exposure will reinforce the...

Lorraine Mirabella

Story | Jan 7, 2014 | 7:04 PM

Under Armour-sponsored athlete Lindsey Vonn is pulling out of next month's winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia because of a knee injury. "I am devastated to announce that I will not be able to compete in Sochi," Vonn said on her Facebook page. "I did everything I possibly could to somehow get strong enough to overcome having no ACL but the reality has sunk in that my knee is just too unstable to compete at this level." The world champion downhill skier said on her post she is having surgery soon to be...

AEGIS STAFF REPORT

Story | Jan 2, 2014 | 2:59 PM

Start off the New Year of 2014 by joining a winter reading program at Harford County Public Library. Harford County Public Library has a winter reading program for teens and adults, a Puppy Tales early literacy program for children ages birth to 5 and new Book Groups to Go to make reading with friends fun and easy. This year's Make Reading Your Winter Sport program encourages high school teens and adults to be gold medal readers in a Winter Olympics year. Participants can register at any branch or...

By Michael Gold, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Dec 12, 2013 | 10:38 AM

Gay sex is now illegal -- again -- in the second-most populous nation in the world. India's Supreme Court restored a 150-year-old law banning sodomy Wednesday, declaring that a lower court that struck it down in 2009 lacked the power to do so. Put another way: After a four-year reprise, a 19th-century British law is what governs gay sex in India. The statute, introduced by Britain when

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I believe the timing is right. Critical decisions should be made to keep our Olympic athletes and coaches at home. The **environment** is simply too volatile to send our athletes and coaches to Sochi. Russian President Vladimir Putin is bound and determined to pull off the Sochi Olympics, no matter what. But when factions boldly state they will target fans who come to Sochi, the situation becomes so much more complex and convoluted. I ask the U.S. Olympic Committee and Congress to keep our athletes...

By Karen Mawdsley, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Jan 18, 2014 | 11:15 AM

GAITHERSBURG — It started 7,000 miles away, in China — that was the first time Crystal Wang held a table tennis racket. "Her grandparents introduce her to this game," Crystal's father, Quandou Wang, said. Crystal was visiting them in the summer of 2007, and they took her to a local community center where table tennis abounded and an instructor suggested she give it a shot. Five years old at the time, Crystal could barely see over the table — the average 5-year-old stands 40 inches...

Story | Jan 13, 2014 | 1:12 PM

Maryland women's basketball star Alyssa Thomas has been named to the U.S. women's national team's 33-player pool for the 2014 world championships and 2016 Olympics. The two-time Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year attended a U.S. minicamp in Las Vegas in October and is one of just six current college players chosen for the 2014-16 pool. (The others are UConn's Stefanie Dolson, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis and Breanna Stewart, Notre Dame's Kayla McBride and Baylor's Odyssey Sims. "I think...

Olympics Photos see all

By Lorraine Mirabella, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Jan 4, 2014 | 6:59 AM

When the winter Olympics gets underway next month in Sochi, Russia, Under Armour's logo will be seen by millions of viewers around the globe as the Baltimore-based brand sponsors two U.S. teams and another from Canada. The Olympic sponsorships — the greatest exposure yet for Under Armour at any winter games — could pay off not only in brand awareness, but in stronger sales and profits, company officials say. They hope wins by sponsored athletes or even just the exposure will reinforce the...

Lorraine Mirabella

Story | Jan 7, 2014 | 7:04 PM

Under Armour-sponsored athlete Lindsey Vonn is pulling out of next month's winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia because of a knee injury. "I am devastated to announce that I will not be able to compete in Sochi," Vonn said on her Facebook page. "I did everything I possibly could to somehow get strong enough to overcome having no ACL but the reality has sunk in that my knee is just too unstable to compete at this level." The world champion downhill skier said on her post she is having surgery soon to be...

AEGIS STAFF REPORT

Story | Jan 2, 2014 | 2:59 PM

Start off the New Year of 2014 by joining a winter reading program at Harford County Public Library. Harford County Public Library has a winter reading program for teens and adults, a Puppy Tales early literacy program for children ages birth to 5 and new Book Groups to Go to make reading with friends fun and easy. This year's Make Reading Your Winter Sport program encourages high school teens and adults to be gold medal readers in a Winter Olympics year. Participants can register at any branch or...

By Michael Gold, The Baltimore Sun

Story | Dec 12, 2013 | 10:38 AM

Gay sex is now illegal -- again -- in the second-most populous nation in the world. India's Supreme Court restored a 150-year-old law banning sodomy Wednesday, declaring that a lower court that struck it down in 2009 lacked the power to do so. Put another way: After a four-year reprise, a 19th-century British law is what governs gay sex in India. The statute, introduced by Britain when

they were colonizing India and reading Charles Dickens, outlaws "carnal intercourse against the order of nature."Â ...

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Outdoors News |

01/26/2014

Times Leader - Online

By Tom Venesky - tvenesky@civitasmedia.com

Big bears, big harvest in 2013

Pennsylvania hunters harvested a total of 3,510 bears in 2013, the fifth-highest tally in state history.

The figure was released by the Pennsylvania Game Commission last week and continues a trend of recent bear seasons taking their place in the record books. With harvest totals for 2013 now official, three of the five highest harvests have occurred in the past three years.

The all-time high was recorded in 2011, when 4,350 bears were harvested. In 2012, Pennsylvania hunters harvested 3,632 bears – the third-largest harvest in state history.

What might place 2013 in a class of its own is the number of large bears taken. Hunters in 2013 harvested 58 bears that weighed 500 pounds or more, and nine of those bears weighed 600 pounds or more.

While 2012 saw a higher number of bears harvested statewide compared to 2013, fewer large bears were taken. Forty-five of the bears in the 2012 harvest weighed 500 pounds or more, with five of them weighing 600 pounds or more.

"Seeing large bears in the harvest speaks well to the health of our bear population, but it also shows the opportunity that exists to harvest a truly, trophy-sized animal," said Mark Ternent, the Game Commission's bear biologist.

The harvest's heaviest bear, taken in Lackawanna County on Nov. 25 by Daniel J. Beavers of Covington Township, Lackawanna County, weighed an estimated 772 pounds.

The second- and third-heaviest bears of 2013 were taken later in the season. Nicholas Corridoni, of Duryea, turned the extended bear season in Luzerne County into a successful one by taking a bear estimated at 656 pounds during a Dec. 5 hunt in Pittston Township. And Derek A. Long, of Yukon, harvested a bear estimated at 640 pounds during the final day of the general season while hunting in Covington Township in Clearfield County.

One bear on the 2013 top-10 list – a male with an actual live weight of 598 pounds – was taken in the statewide bear archery season. Randall E. Tressler, of McVeytown, took the bear Nov. 20 with a crossbow in Wayne Township, Mifflin County.

Overall, 197 bears were taken during the statewide archery season in 2013.

Extended bear seasons played a significant role in the overall harvest in 2013. Statewide, 780 bears were taken during extended seasons, which are open in select wildlife-management units. The total represents an increase compared to the 672 bears harvested during extended seasons in 2012.

Tioga County claimed the highest harvest in extended seasons, with 100 bears taken after the close of the general statewide bear season. Other top counties, and their harvest totals during the extended seasons, were Wayne, 66; Bradford, 65; Pike, 60; and Potter, 54.

Bears were harvested in 53 of the state's 67 counties. And unlike many years, when the top counties for bear harvests come exclusively from the Northeast and Northcentral regions, the Northwest Region also is represented on the top-five counties list in 2013. Meanwhile, one of the usual leaders, Clinton County, dropped from the list. Among counties leading the bear harvest were: Tioga, 286 (227 in 2012); Lycoming, 234 (341); Potter, 196 (179); Pike, 150 (108); and Warren, 148 (94).

Ternent said changes in the top-five counties list this year have their explanations. Acorns are a highly sought-after food by bears in the fall. And in years like 2013 when acorns are scarce, northcentral counties like Clinton, which are made up mostly of oak forest, tend to see harvest decline. Meanwhile, counties farther north, like Tioga and Potter, increase their harvests because beech and cherry are more common.

Final county harvests for the northeast region (with 2012 figures in parentheses) are:

Pike, 150 (108); Wayne, 127 (73); Sullivan, 105 (60); Luzerne, 98 (100); Bradford, 96 (86); Monroe, 79 (102); Wyoming, 66 (57); **Carbon**, 57 (67); Susquehanna, 55 (41); Lackawanna, 48 (37); Columbia, 24 (36); Northumberland, 14 (26); and Montour, 0 (3).

Other recent bear harvests include: 3,090 in 2010; 3,512 in 2009; 3,458 in 2008; 2,360 in 2007; 3,124 in 2006; 4,162 in 2005; 2,976 in 2004; 3,004 in 2003; 2,686 in 2002; 3,063 in 2001; 3,075 in 2000; and 1,741 in 1999.

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PFBC approves youth fishing license

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission voted at its quarterly meeting Thursday to create a voluntary \$1 youth fishing license and to dedicate the revenue generated from it to programs to increase youth fishing participation.

"Increasing youth and family participation in fishing, boating, and conservation programs has always been part of our strategic plan," PFBC executive director John Arway said. "This goal responds to the fact that the percentage of children and young adults ages 6-15 who fished in Pennsylvania in 2010 was only 24 percent, as compared to 37 percent in 2005 and 41 percent in 1995. We want to continue to refine and develop programs to engage kids."

A youth license also provides an added benefit when it comes to federal funding, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of the PFBC's budget. For every youth license sold, the PFBC will receive approximately \$5 in federal revenue from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Act program, which provides funds to states based on a formula that includes the number of licenses a state sells.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 367,000 children and young adults ages 6-15 fished in Pennsylvania in 2010.

"I want to emphasize that this is purely a voluntary youth license, and it is not required for kids to fish," Arway said. "If just 25 percent of those 367,000 children were to purchase a voluntary \$1 license, it would result in more than \$550,000 in revenue for the Commission to invest in youth programs," added Arway.

He added that the potential market for voluntary youth license sales goes beyond the youth anglers, their family and friends. Clubs, organizations, businesses, individuals and others who are interested in promoting youth angling could purchase quantities of voluntary youth license vouchers to distribute to children.

Once a voluntary youth license is purchased or a youth license voucher is redeemed, the individual will be assigned a unique customer identification number (CID).

"Having unique CIDs allows us to analyze license purchasing patterns and trends, tailor messages and programs, and correspond directly with customers," Arway added.

The voluntary youth license will be available beginning Feb. 1 from all licensing agents and online through the PFBC's Outdoor Shop. With a \$1 agent fee and a 70-cent transaction fee, the total cost to purchase the license will be \$2.70.

Youth who plan to participate in the upcoming Mentored Youth Fishing Days must obtain either a voluntary youth fishing license or a free mentored youth fishing permit. It is not necessary to obtain both. The Mentored Youth Fishing Days are scheduled for March 22 and April 5. More information is available at www.gonefishingpa.com.

Also, commissioners voted to seek public comment on a staff proposal to remove the option seniors 65 and older currently have to purchase a lifetime trout/salmon permit in conjunction with the purchase of a \$50 senior resident lifetime fishing license.

Under the proposal, seniors who want to fish for trout would have to purchase a permit each year, beginning Jan. 1, 2015. Seniors who purchase a lifetime trout/salmon permit in conjunction with a lifetime license before that date would be grandfathered.

"About 70 percent of seniors purchase a trout/salmon permit, which mirrors the rate for other anglers," Arway said. "The Commission's trout program accounts for 36 percent of the Fish Fund annual expenditures, and the cost of trout production continues to rise. We simply can no longer afford to allow anglers to fish for trout without paying for the annual permit."

The PFBC estimates that the proposed change would generate approximately \$300,000 in additional annual revenue by the fifth year. Once the notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the PA Bulletin, individuals will have 30 days to submit comments. Comments can be submitted through the PFBC website.

In other action, commissioners:

- * Approved a regulation change that permit anglers who purchase a one-year, multi-year or senior lifetime fishing license and then move out of state to continue to use the license until it expires.

- * Approved the elimination of the regulation which requires boat owners to affix a temporary validation decal to their boats while their registration application is being processed. Boat owners now will be able to demonstrate proof of registration by showing a copy of their registration application. The change goes into effect on April 1, or upon publication in the Pa. Bulletin, whichever is later.

- * Approved a change to the Statewide Natural Gas Leasing Program which removes the restriction on how funds generated from the program must be used.

A complete copy of the meeting schedule and the full agenda for the meeting can be found on the commission's web site at www.fishandboat.com/minutes.htm.

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Vote for new fishing button color

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is encouraging anglers to vote online for their favorite color for a new series of fishing license buttons, which will be available beginning in March.

"The buttons for this first year will be in the color which receives the highest number of votes," Arway said. "Brought back by popular demand, this custom button is similar to the buttons offered by the PFBC in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and again in 1974 and 1975."

Each custom button will measure 1 3/4 inches (same as past, vintage buttons) with a high-quality pin-back design and feature the angler's customer identification number (CID), same as the number displayed on a paper license.

Anglers need to display only the button when fishing, as long as they are carrying a valid paper license.

The purchase of an annual or multi-year Resident, Non-Resident or Senior Resident fishing license is required in order to purchase a license button. The button is an optional purchase for anglers and will be \$5 each, available through the PFBC's online store (The Outdoor Shop) and at some PFBC locations. As an annual button, the color and date on the button will change each year.

This online ballot will be available through Jan. 31.

New report details runoff issues in **Chesapeake Bay**

The **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation released a new report Monday on the benefits of systems to control runoff **pollution**. Entitled "Polluted Runoff: How Investing in Runoff **Pollution** Control Systems Improves the Region's Ecology, Economy, and Health," the report sheds light on the problem, debunks myths around the costs of solutions, and calls for actions to be taken that will reduce the damage of polluted runoff.

"As the only major **pollution** source continuing to grow, attention is now focused on reducing untreated urban/suburban runoff," CBF president William C. Baker said. "This is a local problem requiring local solutions that will provide significant local benefits. But there are important roles for the federal and state governments in tackling the challenges of polluted runoff."

When rain hits hard surfaces, like streets, parking lots, and lawns, it collects a toxic mix of pollutants including bacteria, chemicals, and nitrogen and phosphorus. Nationally, researchers have found **pesticides** in 97 percent of urban runoff samples, at levels high enough to harm aquatic life 83 percent of the time. Our antiquated system for managing this polluted runoff in many existing towns and cities is to get it as quickly as possible, untreated, into local rivers and streams.

The visible results are beach closures, flooding, and fish consumption advisories. The less visible results are serious damage to the life in our rivers and streams. Researchers have found that Brook trout disappear when only 2 percent of a watershed is paved over. Sensitive amphibians disappear when 3 or more percent is paved, and yellow perch stop reproducing when 10 percent of a watershed is paved.

The runoff problem is two-fold. First, many towns and cities were built when treating runoff merely meant getting rid of it. Second, the urban and suburban runoff continues to grow as development spreads far and wide. Every year, new development paves over 10,000 acres of forests and farms, an alarming rate. To put that in perspective, every four years an area of land the size of Washington, D.C. is paved or hardened in the **Chesapeake Bay** Region.

The report found that the three major bay states — **Virginia, Maryland** and Pennsylvania — and federal government all need to do more to limit the damage caused by urban and suburban polluted runoff.

The report is intended to educate the public as well as elected officials, and cites research done across the region as well as national studies. It can be found at cbf.org/pollutedrunoffreport.

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Parents wait for EPA study tied to cancer cases |

01/26/2014

Centre Daily Times - Online

The Associated Press January 26, 2014

SALEM, Ore. — The U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** has been studying possible environmental causes for multiple cancer cases in West Salem, but it won't have its report ready by mid-January as planned.

EPA spokesman Mark MacIntyre last week said the report is close.

"There are many moving pieces to the puzzle of getting the report finished, reviewed, approved and ready for release," he told the Statesman-Journal (<http://is.gd/QlCx0D>).

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Residents petitioned the **EPA** in late 2012 after several cases of osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, were seen in several

young people in West Salem. Residents were concerned about possible environmental contaminants.

West Salem High School student Lisa Harder, 17, died of osteosarcoma in November 2012. At least four other West Salem youths were diagnosed with the same type of bone cancer in recent years, the newspaper reported.

In June 2013, an **EPA** contractor took samples at several locations to test for environmental contaminants, including **pesticides**, semi-volatile organic compounds such as paint, and metals such as mercury.

Investigators also tested for radium, which is found in some drinking-**water** sources.

West Salem has among the highest levels of radon in the state, and officials also have considered the possibility of a connection between it and osteosarcoma. Radon is a radioactive gas found in soils. It becomes a health risk when levels build up indoors.

The **EPA** preliminary site assessment was originally scheduled to be released in the fall.



The federal agency asked the Oregon Health Authority to look at the findings "to see if we agree or disagree," said Jae Douglas, head of OHA's Center for Prevention and Health Promotion. Staff members are meeting Thursday to discuss the report.

Some parents who had petitioned for the **EPA** to look into the matter are frustrated.

"Now, we're just sitting and waiting," said Craig Prosser, whose son, Tyler, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in March 2012. "We're just patiently waiting for some answers from the **EPA**."

Prosser said his son graduated from West Salem High School last year and is having a yearly checkup on Monday, the first since he was declared cancer-free.

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Report: 2,500 miles of waterway across Pa. pollution-impaired |  
01/26/2014

Ellwood City Ledger - Online

Slippery Rock Creek watershed

Ice and snow-covered rocks line the Slippery Rock Creek along Mountville Road in Perry Township. By Eric Poole
epoole@ellwoodcityledger.com EllwoodCityLedger.com | 0 comments

A report issued last week by the **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation indicated that nearly 2,500 miles of the state's waterways are impaired due to **pollution**, but even though those streams and rivers throughout the state have the same statuses, the sources of **pollution** are different.

The impaired designation includes about 200 miles of waterways in the Slippery Rock Creek watershed, which drains parts of Butler and Lawrence counties and supplies drinking **water** to Ellwood City and the surrounding area on public **water** service, according to a 2008 report by the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition.

By definition, impaired waterways do not meet **water**-quality standards and will not even after technology-based standards are fully applied to the relevant point sources of **pollution**.

The **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation indicates that the greatest **pollution** threat in southeastern Pennsylvania stems from development-related runoff, which carries oil and other chemicals from roads and buildings.

Because that development often requires replacing grass and trees, which filter harmful chemicals from **water** runoff, with asphalt and buildings, more chemically-laden **water** reaches the waterways and is carried into the ecosystem.

The issues are different in this region, according to reports by the Ohio River Watershed Foundation and the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition. The Connoquenessing and Slippery Rock Creek watersheds are, collectively, part of the Ohio River Watershed.

Slippery Rock Creek, which originates in northern Butler County, flows into the Connoquenessing Creek just below the First Bridge in Ellport.

The Connoquenessing's source is near Butler, Butler County, and flows into Beaver County at Marion Township and forms the boundary between North Sewickley and Franklin townships before flowing into Ellwood City, cutting the borough in half. The stream goes into the Beaver River at Rock Point, Wayne Township.

The Beaver River, which drains more than 3,000 square miles, flows into the Ohio River at Rochester.

According to reports compiled by the Ohio River Watershed Foundation, dumping of **pollution**, acid mine runoff from now-closed coal mines and agricultural runoff are the primary problems along the watershed, which is home to more than 25 million people.

young people in West Salem. Residents were concerned about possible environmental contaminants.

West Salem High School student Lisa Harder, 17, died of osteosarcoma in November 2012. At least four other West Salem youths were diagnosed with the same type of bone cancer in recent years, the newspaper reported.

In June 2013, an **EPA** contractor took samples at several locations to test for environmental contaminants, including **pesticides**, semi-volatile organic compounds such as paint, and metals such as mercury.

Investigators also tested for radium, which is found in some drinking-**water** sources.

West Salem has among the highest levels of radon in the state, and officials also have considered the possibility of a connection between it and osteosarcoma. Radon is a radioactive gas found in soils. It becomes a health risk when levels build up indoors.

The **EPA** preliminary site assessment was originally scheduled to be released in the fall.



The federal agency asked the Oregon Health Authority to look at the findings "to see if we agree or disagree," said Jae Douglas, head of OHA's Center for Prevention and Health Promotion. Staff members are meeting Thursday to discuss the report.

Some parents who had petitioned for the **EPA** to look into the matter are frustrated.

"Now, we're just sitting and waiting," said Craig Prosser, whose son, Tyler, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in March 2012. "We're just patiently waiting for some answers from the **EPA**."

Prosser said his son graduated from West Salem High School last year and is having a yearly checkup on Monday, the first since he was declared cancer-free.

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Report: 2,500 miles of waterway across Pa. pollution-impaired |  
01/26/2014

Ellwood City Ledger - Online

Slippery Rock Creek watershed

Ice and snow-covered rocks line the Slippery Rock Creek along Mountville Road in Perry Township. By Eric Poole
epoole@ellwoodcityledger.com EllwoodCityLedger.com | 0 comments

A report issued last week by the **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation indicated that nearly 2,500 miles of the state's waterways are impaired due to **pollution**, but even though those streams and rivers throughout the state have the same statuses, the sources of **pollution** are different.

The impaired designation includes about 200 miles of waterways in the Slippery Rock Creek watershed, which drains parts of Butler and Lawrence counties and supplies drinking **water** to Ellwood City and the surrounding area on public **water** service, according to a 2008 report by the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition.

By definition, impaired waterways do not meet **water**-quality standards and will not even after technology-based standards are fully applied to the relevant point sources of **pollution**.

The **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation indicates that the greatest **pollution** threat in southeastern Pennsylvania stems from development-related runoff, which carries oil and other chemicals from roads and buildings.

Because that development often requires replacing grass and trees, which filter harmful chemicals from **water** runoff, with asphalt and buildings, more chemically-laden **water** reaches the waterways and is carried into the ecosystem.

The issues are different in this region, according to reports by the Ohio River Watershed Foundation and the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Coalition. The Connoquenessing and Slippery Rock Creek watersheds are, collectively, part of the Ohio River Watershed.

Slippery Rock Creek, which originates in northern Butler County, flows into the Connoquenessing Creek just below the First Bridge in Ellport.

The Connoquenessing's source is near Butler, Butler County, and flows into Beaver County at Marion Township and forms the boundary between North Sewickley and Franklin townships before flowing into Ellwood City, cutting the borough in half. The stream goes into the Beaver River at Rock Point, Wayne Township.

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According to reports compiled by the Ohio River Watershed Foundation, dumping of **pollution**, acid mine runoff from now-closed coal mines and agricultural runoff are the primary problems along the watershed, which is home to more than 25 million people.

Impaired sections of Slippery Rock Creek watershed do not include the stretch closest to the creek's terminus in Lawrence County. But further upstream, acid mine runoff has caused problems in the creek. The watershed coalition has 11 projects to alleviate the **pollution** issue.

One of the most common ways to address acid mine drainage is with the creation of limestone leach beds. Limestone, a natural alkali substance, is used to neutralize the acidic **water** runoff.

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Review Ohio Chemical Rules |

01/26/2014

Intelligencer - Online, The

Both Ohio and Pennsylvania have rules in place to guard against chemical spills such as that earlier this month in Kanawha County, W.Va. As we noted in a story published on Sunday, had similar regulations been in place in West **Virginia**, the spill here might not have occurred.

Mountain State officials are preparing rules to require safety measures at chemical storage facilities, enforced by regular inspections. As matters stand, there is virtually no oversight of such sites.

Pennsylvania's rules were enacted as a result of a 1988 disaster that had much more widespread effects than the Kanawha County spill. There, about 300,000 people were affected. **Water** supplies for about a million people were tainted when, in 1988, about 700,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked into the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh, with the tainted **water** flowing from there down the Ohio River.

Rules in the Keystone State seem tight enough to provide adequate protection. Ohio's regulatory mechanism is not as strict, however.

Buckeye State chemical storage tanks are required to meet certain standards and are inspected annually. But as a state **Environmental Protection Agency** spokeswoman told our reporter, emphasis seems to be on air **pollution**. Tanks are inspected to determine if gases are escaping, and **EPA** workers "check for obvious problems with liquid leaks," she said.

There are rules that large tanks near waterways have "berms" to contain any liquid escaping from them - but the tank from which chemicals spilled in Kanawha County had a similar containment wall. It had a hole in it.

West Virginians are looking at the problem as a result of a disaster. So did Pennsylvanians. This might be a good time for Ohio to get ahead of the game, so to speak, and conduct a thorough review of chemical storage rules. Doing so could avert a catastrophe such as that from which many West Virginians are still recovering.

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01/26/2014

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Some environmental groups and eastern Ohio residents say the state is hurrying permits for gas processing plants amid the shale drilling boom.

They say fast-tracking some permit requests prevents examination of local concerns about air and **water pollution** from refineries and the **fracking** process that frees the gas. Ohio Environmental Council lobbyist Jack Shaner says the state is bending over backward to accommodate the industry.

The Columbus Dispatch reports (<http://bit.ly/19VPF06>) that demands for a public hearing in Mahoning County on a refinery permit application last year were rejected by officials trying to avoid lengthy delays. Instead, the company got its permit in about four months.

State environmental officials say they are taking the right steps to protect residents and the **environment**. Operations with major **pollution** issues undergo much more scrutiny.

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State assigns \$105,000 to Big Cove Creek |

01/26/2014

Public Opinion - Online

Conservation District gets \$105K to stabilize creek banks

jhook@publicopinionnews.com @JimHookPO on Twitter

Harrisburg>> Restoring the banks of Big Cove Creek in Fulton County recently got a boost through Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Grant Program.

Gov. Tom Corbett this week announced a \$105,000 grant for the Fulton County Conservation District.

The grant will be used to stabilize the stream banks, establish a functioning flood plain and improve the fish habitat along 1,000 feet of the creek downstream of McConnellsburg, according to Scott Alexander, watershed specialist for the district.

The stream below McConnellsburg, including the project area, is recognized as an impaired stream through the Federal **Clean Water Act**. It is impaired by grazing, silt and nutrients.

Two other sections of the stream have received previous attention. A Growing Greener grant funded restoration of the creek in McConnellsburg. Some of the stream there had experienced significant damage in the 1996 flooding. The conservation district also partly funded a project that improved a streamside barnyard and limited cattle access to the creek.

The current project area has the most severe bank erosion in the impaired reach downstream of the borough, according to Alexander.

"The improvements resulting from the new project will reduce sediment and nutrient supplies to Cove Creek," Alexander said. "The project will be a significant step toward improving the health of impaired local streams and removing this stream reach, as well as adjacent downstream stream segments, from the list of impaired waters of Pennsylvania — a priority for the Fulton County Conservation District."

The areas were first deemed impaired about 10 years ago during a statewide effort to assess **water** quality across the state, he said. There is no set time line for the recovery efforts.

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Town Hall Wednesday on Water Crisis; Erin Returns to State |

01/26/2014

HuntingtonNews.net

Sunday, January 26, 2014 - 15:21 Updated 45 min ago Edited by Tony Rutherford from Multiple Reports

A panel of national and regional experts will take part in a Charleston town hall forum Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Clay Center in Charleston. "West **Virginia Water** Crisis What Now" features a live audience and includes environmental activist/consumer activist, Erin Brockovich. Other experts on the panel: Dr. Rahul Gupta of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, Randy Huffman, cabinet secretary of the West **Virginia** Department of Environmental Protection and Johnny Banks, lead investigator for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

The forum runs from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. and the first hour will be broadcast on WCHS TV. It will be live streamed on the station's website.

Due to the small venue, audience members must register. Click to go to our registration page here.

Submitting the form does not confirm your seat. Your seat will be confirmed by email. You must print and bring this email with you, as it will serve as your ticket.

Brockovich appeared on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" in which she stated that those responsible for the environmental disaster should be prosecuted.

"They should [go to jail]," Brockovich said. "It's a crime."

The New York Times in 2009 ran a series of articles on nationwide **water** quality. A portion focused on Charleston, WV, and explained that most **Clean Water Act** violations are not enforced and responsible parties not forced into compliance.

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Wicomico examines first-of-its-kind plant to solve trash woes |

01/26/2014

Daily Times - Online, The

Written by Jeremy Cox Staff Writer

Wicomico County gasification project

Info: In Wicomico, officials are paying \$27,000 to a Fairfax, Va.,-based waste-management consultant to help draft a request for bids for the plant's development, which would vaporize garbage and transform it into energy-producing gas.

Wicomico County could become the first place in the United States and one of only a few worldwide to vaporize garbage and transform it into energy-producing gas using a state-of-the-art technology called "gasification."

The county's director of public works gave an enthusiastic presentation to the County Council earlier this month, detailing the \$75 million proposal. It would be built next to the Newland Park landfill on Brick Kiln Road with the financial help of a private-sector partner, who would be in charge of running the plant, Lee Beauchamp said.

But even the technology's biggest advocates in America acknowledge there are several reasons it hasn't caught yet on at a scale anywhere near what Wicomico is considering.

Among the tallest hurdles gasification plants face are opposition from environmental groups over polluting smokestacks and local officials' reservations about financial sustainability.

In Wicomico, officials are paying \$27,000 to a Fairfax, Va.,-based waste-management consultant to help draft a request for bids for the plant's development. Gershman, Brickner & Bratton Inc. stands to earn more if the county selects a vendor and the project moves forward.

That's only the beginning. The effort almost certainly will require marshaling public support, meeting some of the toughest environmental rules in the country and a financial storm of near-perfect proportions.-

"We need to do a lot more legwork on that project before we jump into it," said County Councilman Joe Holloway. "We'd better really be careful with this."

A representative of GBB didn't return a call seeking comment for this story. But in a report last August for the American Chemistry Council, the company flatly stated that the financial viability of processing municipal waste remains unknown.

The reason: It's never been done in America.

"Therefore, data on the economics of commercial scale gasification plants for MSW (municipal solid waste) is currently not available," the report states.

"Available data from pilot and demonstration-scale facilities shows that costs of gasification systems varies significantly related to the type of feedstock, the type of gasification technology, the type of outputs, and the location."-

Still, the idea is worth exploring, Beauchamp told the council, because its benefits could reach beyond the county's borders.-

Chicken manure, a poultry industry byproduct at the center of a regulatory debate in **Maryland**, could be trucked to the facility and vaporized for fuel, he said. That could spare farmers from simply throwing away the manure, if new rules prevent them from spreading it on their fields to reduce **Chesapeake Bay -pollution**.

The plant would extend the life of the landfill, which faces a space crunch within 30 years, Beauchamp said. The vaporization process would leave behind an ash representing 3-5 percent of the original size of the -garbage.

And residents would no longer have to separate their recyclables. In gasification plants that use lower temperatures, glass and metals would remain behind, allowing them to be easily retrieved and recycled, Beauchamp said at the time.

The process is similar to traditional waste-to-energy incinerators with one key exception: It uses very little oxygen. The material technically isn't burned, dramatically reducing air pollutants, advocates say.

The main products of the process are hydrogen and **carbon** monoxide, the components of synthetic gas, or "syngas." But it must undergo another step before it becomes energy or fuel — and that, critics say, is where the process gets dirty.

Existing gasification plants often use steam-cycle combustion plants for the final step, producing dioxins and other harmful contaminants.

To Ananda Lee Tan, the U.S. and Canada coordinator for the group Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, gasification plant vendors "are really snake oil salesman. They're trying to sell dirty, bad products."

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He calls the plants "incinerators in disguise" and questions the industry's environmental claims.

"Usually when we confront these folks in public forums, we ask them to present the evidence, and that's where things get interesting," he said. The industry's reports are "usually based on pilots. (But) 10 pounds of waste under lab conditions is not the same as a 100-ton gasifier."

Wicomico isn't the first jurisdiction to put serious consideration into the promising technology. News reports tell of dozens of places that have talked big about gasification, only to back away.

One of the most notable examples came about halfway down the east coast of Florida in the bedroom community of St. Lucie County. Commissioners signed a contract with Atlanta-based Geoplasma to finance and operate a plasma gasification facility, which uses the highest heat of all types of the plants to -convert waste.

All was going well until the expansion of hydraulic fracturing drove down natural gas prices, said Chris Craft, the commissioner behind the campaign. But he still believes the technology is the future of managing waste.

"In the long run, it's more economically feasible and environmentally friendly" than constructing new landfills, said Craft, who recently became tax collector. "It's just going to take a lot of infrastructure at the beginning."

Two financial metrics are key to making a gasification work, waste-management analysts say. The gas price and the tipping fees — how much a jurisdiction charges for disposal by the ton — must be high enough to offset the millions of dollars in construction and operating costs.

St. Lucie's tipping fee was \$41; Wicomico's, at \$60. Beauchamp has said he hopes that won't have to rise if the plant gets built.

If gasification plants have a chance anywhere in the U.S., it's in the Northeast, where land is more scarce and tipping fees are steeper, one analyst said.

"Gasification has not been implemented a lot in the world except in Japan and Europe. To my knowledge in the U.S., not," said Charles Mussche, a research associate at Columbia University and consultant to its Waste-to Energy Research and Technology Council. "It's economics. It's less industrial" in America.

The idea requires a lot of study, especially because the county would be the first to undertake the construction of a plant at such a scale, Wicomico Administrator Wayne Strausburg said.

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He calls the plants "incinerators in disguise" and questions the industry's environmental claims.

"Usually when we confront these folks in public forums, we ask them to present the evidence, and that's where things get interesting," he said. The industry's reports are "usually based on pilots. (But) 10 pounds of waste under lab conditions is not the same as a 100-ton gasifier."

Wicomico isn't the first jurisdiction to put serious consideration into the promising technology. News reports tell of dozens of places that have talked big about gasification, only to back away.

One of the most notable examples came about halfway down the east coast of Florida in the bedroom community of St. Lucie County. Commissioners signed a contract with Atlanta-based Geoplasma to finance and operate a plasma gasification facility, which uses the highest heat of all types of the plants to -convert waste.

All was going well until the expansion of hydraulic fracturing drove down natural gas prices, said Chris Craft, the commissioner behind the campaign. But he still believes the technology is the future of managing waste.

"In the long run, it's more economically feasible and environmentally friendly" than constructing new landfills, said Craft, who recently became tax collector. "It's just going to take a lot of infrastructure at the beginning."

Two financial metrics are key to making a gasification work, waste-management analysts say. The gas price and the tipping fees — how much a jurisdiction charges for disposal by the ton — must be high enough to offset the millions of dollars in construction and operating costs.

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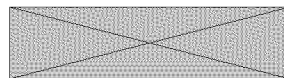
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Remarkably, this may be just the beginning.

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In his Jan. 8 State of the State speech, Tomblin said, "The construction phase of this project alone is expected to create approximately 10,000 jobs. This cracker is a game changer."

So what's ahead? Well, to start with, neither coal nor lottery revenues are going to disappear.

Bill Raney, president of the West **Virginia** Coal Association, estimates that about 13 billion tons of coal has been mined in the state over the past 100-plus years and about 50 billion tons remain.

Although coal production has been hurt by low natural gas prices, federal environmental regulations and higher production costs, exports of metallurgical coal — used to make steel — have soared in recent years.

There are several promising metallurgical coal-related developments on the horizon, including:

An expansion of the Panama Canal, scheduled for completion in 2015. It is expected to improve the eastern United States' — and West **Virginia's** — access to world markets.

Arch Coal invested \$400 million in its Leer **Mining** Complex in Taylor County, which began using the longwall technique to mine metallurgical coal in 2013.

Private business cast a big vote of confidence in the underground **mining** industry in 2011 when Caterpillar bought Bucyrus International, a major manufacturer of underground **mining** equipment, for \$9 billion. The next year Monty Boyd announced his Walker Machinery dealership in southern West **Virginia** and his Wayne Supply dealership in Kentucky would sell and service Caterpillar's underground coal **mining** equipment.

Texas-based Carbynx Inc. announced in November it would build a plant in Jackson County that uses West **Virginia** coal to make a **carbon** alloy replacement for coke, an essential ingredient for steelmaking.

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